

COMMERCIAL CREW



Astronauts picked for SpaceX, Boeing capsule test flights

This undated photo made available by NASA on Friday, Aug. 3, 2018 shows, from left, Sunita Williams, Josh Cassada, Eric Boe, Nicole Mann, Christopher Ferguson, Douglas Hurley, Robert Behnken, Michael Hopkins and Victor Glover standing in front of Boeing's CST-100 Starliner and SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsules at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Associated Press

By MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)
— NASA on Friday assigned the astronauts who will ride

the first commercial capsules into orbit next year and bring crew launches back to the U.S. SpaceX and Boeing are

shooting for a test flight of their capsules by the end of this year or early next, with the first crews flying from Cape Canaveral, Florida,

by next spring or summer. Nine astronauts were named to ride the SpaceX Dragon and Boeing Starliner capsules — five on the

first crew flights and four on the second round of missions to the International Space Station.

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Pentagon redoing space defenses, but will Trump demand more?

By **ROBERT BURNS**

AP National Security Writer WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump wants a Space Force, a new military service he says is needed to ensure American dominance in space. But the idea is gaining little traction at the Pentagon, where the president's defense chief, Jim Mattis, says it would add burdensome bureaucracy and unwanted costs.

The Pentagon acknowledges a need to revamp its much-criticized approach to defending U.S. economic and security interests in space, and it is moving in that direction. But it's unclear whether this will satisfy Trump, who wants to go even further by creating a separate military space service.

The administration intends to announce next week the results of a Pentagon study that is expected to call for creating a new military command — U.S. Space Command — to consolidate space warfighting forces and making other organizational changes short of establishing a separate service, which only Congress can do. Any legislative proposal to create a separate service would likely not be put on the table until next year.

Mattis, who said prior to Trump's "Space Force" announcement in June that he opposes creating a new branch of the military for space, said afterward that this would require "a lot of detailed planning."

Mattis is allied on this with key Republicans on Capitol



In this July 30, 2018, file photo, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis attends a swearing in ceremony for Robert Wilkie as Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

Hill including Sen. James Inhofe, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee who opposes a separate Space Force but is open to creating a Space Command. The command would coordinate the use of space forces of existing services, such as those that operate military satellites, but would not be a separate service.

Mattis's chief spokeswoman, Dana W. White, said Friday he believes that consolidating space functions will "ensure we move at the speed of relevancy. Space is a joint warfighting domain that the U.S. must dominate."

Trump mentioned as recently as Tuesday that he had ordered the Penta-

gon to begin the process of creating a Space Force as a new branch of the military, but he did not repeat the phrase he used in June — a "separate but equal" service. That may open the possibility of the Pentagon proposing to establish a cadre of space experts that would be part of a space "corps" attached to the Air Force rather than as a separate service.

On Friday, Trump hailed the news that NASA has named the astronauts who will ride the first commercial capsules into orbit next year. "We have the greatest facilities in the world and we are now letting the private sector pay to use them," he tweeted. "Exciting things happening. Space Force!"

Trump's focus has generated an unusual level of talk about space, but with little clarity.

"At the moment, there is no concrete proposal on the table for what a Space Force will look like or what it will do," said Brian Weeden, an Air Force veteran who is director of program planning at the Secure World Foundation, which promotes peaceful uses of outer space. "It's just sort of a notional concept."

Weeden points out that creating a new service would not address what is generally seen as a need for a more coherent force to defend U.S. interests in space, since by law a service recruits, trains and equips troops but does not

do combat. That is why a Space Command is being considered, since it would be the combat arm for space much as Central Command is the organization responsible for combat operations in the Middle East. Aside from the organizational issues, the Pentagon's role in space is under scrutiny because of a recognition that the United States is increasingly reliant on satellites that are difficult to protect in space. Satellites provide communications, navigation, intelligence and other services vital to the military and the economy. Whereas space has long been America's technological edge, it is increasingly seen as its Achilles' heel. War in space is not just Hollywood fiction. The U.S. intelligence agencies reported earlier this year that Russia and China are pursuing "nondestructive and destructive" anti-satellite weapons for use during a future war.

A related problem that the Pentagon has struggled to address is the sluggish pace of developing and acquiring satellites through the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center, which could be replaced by a new space development agency.

In an interim report to Congress in March on ways to reorganize its space organizations, the Pentagon said it is making changes to "ensure that we are prepared for" potential conflicts in space. This includes making satellites more resilient to potential attack by Russia or China. □



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TEST FLIGHTS

Continued from Front

"For the first time since 2011, we are on the brink of launching American astronauts on American rockets from American soil," said NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine, who made the introductions at Johnson Space Center.

U.S. astronauts now take Russian capsules to the space station, with NASA paying as much as \$82 million a seat.

Boeing's first Starliner crew will include a former NASA astronaut who commanded the last shuttle flight in 2011, Chris Ferguson, who's now a Boeing employee. The other commercial crew members are still with NASA. All have a military background.

The seven men and two women pumped their fists in the air and gave thumbs-up as they strode onto the stage to cheers from the crowd.

"As a test pilot, it doesn't get any better than this," said astronaut Nicole Au-napu Mann, a Naval aviator who will make her first trip into space on the first Starliner crew.

She later said the energy in the packed auditorium was incredible.

"We're ushering in this new era of American space-flight. I really think it's just the beginning," Mann told The Associated Press.

NASA has been paying billions of dollars to SpaceX and Boeing to develop the crew capsules to pick up where the shuttles left off, while also paying billions for cargo deliveries to the space station by SpaceX and Northrop Grumman. The cargo missions started in 2012. The crew missions have been delayed repeatedly because of the technical challenges and difficulties of making spacecraft safe for humans. A recent abort test

by Boeing resulted in leaking engine fuel.

Astronaut Doug Hurley, who will be on the first crew of the SpaceX Dragon, hinted at the delays when he noted, "The first flight is something you dream about as a test pilot, and you don't think it's ever going to happen to you. But looks like it might."

"Oh, it better," Bridenstine chimed in.

Besides Ferguson and Mann, the initial commercial crew members are: Eric Boe, Sunita Williams and John Cassada riding on Boeing. Robert Behnken, Douglas Hurley, Victor Glover and Michael Hopkins will fly with SpaceX.

SpaceX President Gwynne Shotwell took a photo of the astronauts before assuring them, "We won't let you down."

Boeing's Starliners will soar on United Launch Alliance's Atlas V rockets. Dragons, meanwhile, will fly on SpaceX's own Falcon 9 rockets. The race to get astronauts to the space station first is real; a U.S. flag that flew on the first space shuttle flight in 1981 and the last shuttle flight in 2011, awaits the winner.

A white SpaceX launch suit and a blue Boeing launch suit stood on display behind the astronauts on stage.

Ferguson told the gathering that these new high-tech capsules will have a higher emphasis on safety than the shuttle did, with full abort systems. The group likened it to flying an iPhone, with a minimal number of switches compared with the 3,000 switches in the old shuttle cockpit.

As for being the only non-NASA guy on board, Ferguson explained later during a Reddit "Ask Me Anything" program that Boeing always uses company test pilots for first flights "and the Starliner is no exception."

Ferguson noted he's been



Astronauts, from left, Eric Boe, Sunita Williams, Christopher Ferguson, Josh Cassada and Nicole Mann react after being introduced at a NASA event to announce them as astronauts assigned to crew the first flight tests and missions of the Boeing CST-100 Starliner and SpaceX Crew Dragon, Friday, Aug. 3, 2018, in Houston.

Associated Press

involved with the Boeing capsule since the beginning.

"So good or bad, it's got my name on it, and I'm sure it's going to be good," he told the AP.


SpaceX is shooting for a test flight without passengers in November and a crew flight in April. Boeing is aiming for a test flight at the end of this year or early next, and the first crew flight in the middle of next year.

By handing off crew and cargo runs to the space station — which will keep orbiting until at least 2024 — NASA has set its sight on the moon and Mars, developing the Orion capsule and the massive Space Launch System rocket.

"This is truly an exciting time for human spaceflight in our nation, and believe me, it's


only going to get better as we charge off into the future," said Bob Cabana, a

former shuttle commander who now heads Kennedy Space Center. □



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Shifting strategy, Democrats to begin meeting with Kavanaugh

By KEVIN FREKING

WASHINGTON (AP) — After weeks of refusing to meet with Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, Democrats in the Senate plan to begin meeting with him when they start returning to Washington in mid-August, a senior Democratic aide said Friday.

The aide said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the top Democrat on the Judiciary Committee tasked with holding hearings for Kavanaugh, will be among those meeting with him.

Only one Democratic senator, Joe Manchin of West Virginia, has met with Kavanaugh as lawmakers sparred over access to records from the nominee's time as White House staff secretary under President George W. Bush.

Kavanaugh's lengthy public record has emerged as a key battleground as senators scrutinize the 53-year-old appellate judge, a conservative whose views on gay marriage, abortion and executive power could move the court rightward for a generation.

The National Archives and Records Administration is compiling records from Kavanaugh's time in the White House counsel's office. But leaders of the Senate Judiciary Committee are at odds over what records should be turned over from Kavanaugh's time as Bush's staff secretary.

A senior Democratic aide said the senators will demand the records in dispute from Kavanaugh directly and question him about their contents during their meetings with him.

The aide said Democrats



In this July 16, 2018, file photo, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington.

also intend to demand that Kavanaugh call for and support the release of all of his files from his time in the White House, and to urge the National Archives and former President Bush to adhere to the same standard used in Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan's confirmation. The aide spoke on the condition of anonymity to speak freely on strategy. Republicans have fought the release of all the Bush-era staff secretary docu-

ments saying there are plenty of other files on his record. Already the committee is poised to release more than 125,000 pages from Kavanaugh's time in the White House counsel's office during the Bush years, and on Friday it requested another 20,000 from his time on the Kenneth Starr team investigating President Bill Clinton. Earlier, some 17,000 pages were released from his questionnaire as well as more from his 300-plus cas-

es as an appellate judge. The White House greeted the news that Senate Democrats would begin meeting with Kavanaugh by saying its requests for meetings between Kavanaugh and Schumer and Feinstein have remained unanswered for more than three weeks.

"While we look forward to potential meetings, both of these Democratic senators and many of their colleagues have publicly op-

posed Judge Kavanaugh's nomination, while continuing to disingenuously demand millions of pages of documents from former President Bush that are irrelevant to evaluating the judge's judicial thinking," said White House spokesman Raj Shah.

Meanwhile, David Ferriero, archivist of the United States, told Schumer that the National Archives cannot provide Democrats with non-public records covering Kavanaugh's time as staff secretary. He said such a request must come from the Republican chairman of the Judiciary Committee, or the committee itself. He said in a letter to Schumer dated Thursday that the practice is based on a 2001 Justice Department legal opinion.

Ferriero said the National Archives declined to process similar requests from the lead Republicans on the Judiciary Committee in connection with the nominations of Attorney General Eric Holder and Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan during the administration of President Barack Obama.

The National Archives holds millions of pages of records related to Kavanaugh, significantly more than for prior Supreme Court nominees who worked in the White House.

Republicans have been pressuring Democratic senators up for re-election this year to meet with Kavanaugh, particularly in states that President Donald Trump won in 2016. The office of Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., confirmed Friday that she has a meeting scheduled with Kavanaugh on Aug. 21. Trump won Missouri in 2016. □

Associated Press

U.S. appeals court upholds California bullet stamping law

By **SUDHIN THANAWALA**

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A California requirement that new models of semi-automatic handguns stamp identifying information on bullet casings when fired is a "real-world solution" to help solve gun crimes, a divided U.S. appeals court said Friday in a decision that upheld the novel law. The stamping requirement and two measures intended to make guns safer did not violate the 2nd Amendment because they left plenty of firearms for sale in California and were reasonable to further the state's goal of keeping people safe, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said in a 2-1 decision.

Gun rights advocates had argued that manufacturers didn't have the technology to implement the stamping requirement, so the law was effectively a ban on the sale of new guns in the state.

Writing for the majority, Judge M. Margaret McKeown said the inability to buy particular guns did not

infringe the 2nd Amendment right to self-defense in the home.

"Indeed, all of the plaintiffs admit that they are able to buy an operable handgun suitable for self-defense — just not the exact gun they want," she said.

McKeown, joined by Judge J. Clifford Wallace, also rejected the argument that the stamping technology was impossible to implement.

The 9th Circuit was analyzing the law under a less rigorous judicial standard in order to reach its "policy preferences," said Brandon Combs, executive director of the Calguns Foundation, one of the plaintiffs.

"Really what the 9th Circuit is saying and has said in other cases basically is as long as a person that is law abiding has access to one handgun inside of their home, then that's it," he said. "That's the extent of their right. We think that's quite wrong."

In a dissenting opinion, 9th Circuit Judge Jay Bybee said there was conflicting evidence about whether



In this Jan. 5, 2016 file photo, empty bullet casings sit in a container at the National Armory gun store and gun range in Pompano Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

the stamping requirement was technically feasible. If the state adopted a requirement that no gun manufacturer could satisfy, the law would not help the state solve handgun crimes and would illegally restrict gun purchases, he said.

Also at issue in the case were two additional state requirements that were intended to prevent accidental discharges of handguns. The 9th Circuit upheld those mandates too.

The stamping requirement — the first of its kind in the

nation — requires new models of pistols to have a microscopic array of characters in two spots that identify the gun's make, model and serial number and are imprinted on the casings when the weapon is fired. The goal is to allow law enforcement to trace casings left at a crime scene to the weapons from which they were discharged.

The California law, which Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed in 2007 and took effect in 2013, doesn't affect guns already on the

state's official firearm roster. Only new or modified semi-automatic handguns sold in California must be equipped with the technology.

Washington, D.C., had been keeping a close eye on how California implemented the law, and now has a similar stamping requirement.

Adam Skaggs, chief counsel for the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, said other states will take notice of the court rulings in California.

The California Supreme Court in June threw out a separate lawsuit that sought to block the state's stamping law.

"To the extent that this is not bogged down in litigation, it's going to say to regulators elsewhere that they ought to take another, close look," he said.

In a separate decision Friday, a three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit unanimously upheld another California law that bans people licensed to carry concealed firearms from having them on school grounds. □

NRA sues New York officials over 'blacklisting' campaign

By **MARY ESCH**

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The National Rifle Association is suffering grave financial harm that threatens its ability to pursue its advocacy mission because of a "blacklisting" campaign by Gov. Andrew Cuomo and New York regulators, the gun rights group said in a federal lawsuit.

In an amended version of a federal lawsuit filed in May, the Virginia-based NRA said it lost insurance coverage after the state's enforcement actions against companies underwriting an NRA-branded insurance program called Carry Guard. It said the Cuomo administration was persuading other insurers to avoid doing business with the NRA.

Without liability coverage, the NRA said it can't maintain its offices, operate ed-

ucational programs or hold rallies and other political events.

The amended complaint was filed in late July in federal court in northern New York. It names the Democratic governor along with the state Department of Financial Services and its superintendent, Maria Vullo, as defendants.

Cuomo said late Friday the state is filing a motion to dismiss the lawsuit. "New York will not be intimidated by the NRA's frivolous lawsuit to advance its dangerous gun-peddling agenda," he said.

Cuomo added, "If I could have put the NRA out of business, I would have done it 20 years ago."

The lawsuit said "back-channel communications" by the Cuomo administration "made it clear to banks and insurers that it is bad business in New York to do

business with the NRA." As a result, it said multiple financial institutions have entered into consent or-

ders that compel them to end longstanding business relationships with the NRA in New York and elsewhere.

The lawsuit asks the court to have the Cuomo administration stop its practices against the NRA. □



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More states sue to stop online plans for 3D-printed guns

By MARTHA BELLISLE
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — More states are suing the Trump administration to dissolve a settlement it reached with a company that wants to post instructions online for making 3D-printed firearms that are hard to trace and detect.

Mostly Democratic attorneys general from 19 states, plus the District of Columbia, filed an amended complaint Friday asking a judge make it illegal to share plans on creating printable plastic weapons. One Republican — Colorado's attorney general — joined the lawsuit.

It comes days after U.S. District Judge Robert Lasnik blocked the plans from being released until Aug. 28. He has scheduled an Aug. 21 hearing on the states' request to reverse the U.S. State Department's agreement with Austin, Texas-based Defense Distributed. The settlement jeopardizes states' ability to enforce gun laws, including background checks, and puts public safety at risk, the complaint said. The availability of plastic guns threatens safety in prisons and jails and makes air travel more susceptible to terrorist attacks, the states said.

"The states and the District of Columbia have a clear and reasonable fear that the proliferation of untraceable, undetectable weapons will enable convicted felons, domestic abusers, the mentally ill, and others who should not have access to firearms to acquire



In this Aug. 1, 2018, file photo, Cody Wilson, with Defense Distributed, holds a 3D-printed gun called the Liberator at his shop in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press

and use them," Lasnik said in his temporary order Tuesday.

Defense Distributed owner Cody Wilson, a self-described "crypto-anarchist," has said "governments should live in fear of their citizenry." His company seeks to make guns accessible to everyone, making "meaningful gun regulation impossible," according to the complaint.

Wilson's lawyer, Josh Blackman, told The Associated Press on Friday that they are "still considering our options" but did not elaborate.

He told the judge this week that the safety risks claimed by the states is "largely ex-

aggerated" because many of the files are already online.

Washington state Assistant Attorney General Jeff Rupert acknowledged that some files are out there but hopes the court rulings will make it clear that any new posts violate federal law.

A group of gun-rights advocates called the Firearms Policy Coalition responded to the judge's order by creating a website with plans for various firearms, including "the Liberator," a 3D-printable single-shot handgun.

"Our Constitution's First Amendment secures the right of all people to engage in truthful speech,

including by sharing information contained in books, paintings, and files," the group said in a statement online.

"Should any tyrants wish to chill or infringe the rights of the People, we would welcome the opportunity to defend freedom whenever, wherever, and however necessary."

Kris Brown, co-president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, a gun-control advocacy group, said the Firearms Policy Coalition's "reckless and dangerous behavior" isn't a constitutional position but "a publicity stunt that will lead to someone being hurt or killed."

Washington state Attorney General Bob Ferguson urged the federal government to enforce the court order prohibiting distribution of downloadable gun files.

The states suing are: Washington, Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, California, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia.

The expanded lawsuit comes as a group of congressional Democrats introduced legislation that would block online instructions for 3D-printed guns, which are largely undetectable at security checkpoints, according a statement released Friday by U.S. Reps. Ted Deutch and Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida, Brad Schneider of Illinois and Carolyn Maloney of New York.

"This isn't about freedom of information; this is about our national security and our public safety," Rep. Deutch said.

Another measure introduced this week requires plastic guns to have serial numbers and enough metal to make them visible on screening machines.

President Donald Trump has questioned whether his administration should have agreed to allow the plans to be posted online, tweeting Tuesday that the idea "doesn't seem to make much sense!"

Since then, he has been largely silent on the issue. □

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Facing deportation, U.S. Marine's wife leaves for Mexico

By MIKE SCHNEIDER

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The 16-year-old American daughter of a U.S. Marine held back tears as long as she could Friday before her family was split in two.

Her mother, Alejandra Juarez, was finally leaving for Mexico, rather than be sent off in handcuffs, after exhausting all options to stop her deportation.

"My mom is a good person. She's not a criminal," Pamela said, cursing at the immigration agency before her mother checked in for her flight from Orlando International Airport.

Alejandra and Temo Juarez, a naturalized citizen who runs a roofing business, quietly raised Pamela and their 9-year-old daughter, Estela, in the central Florida town of Davenport until a 2013 traffic stop exposed her legal status.

Afterward, she regularly checked in with U.S. Immigration and Customs officials, which typically went after higher-priority targets

like people with criminal records.

Temo didn't figure his vote for President Donald Trump would affect them personally. That was before the enforcement of Trump's "zero tolerance" policy toward illegal immigration.

Now, the Juarez family will be divided in two: Estela will join her mother in Mexico after she gets settled, while Temo cares for Pamela and pays the bills.

Alejandra, 39, petitioned to become a citizen in 2001 but was rejected because she was accused of making a false statement at the border when she sought asylum in 1998, attorney Richard Maney said. He said she was asked about her citizenship and told authorities she had been a student in Memphis, Tennessee for a short time, so border officials apparently thought she was falsely claiming to be an American citizen.

"This is not going to be the last case like this," Maney

said. "This is potentially the first of many. There are many military spouses in the same situation."

U.S. Rep. Darren Soto, D-Fla., who couldn't get the votes in Congress for legislation to allow Juarez to remain, called her situation disgraceful.

"We're not going to give up," he told her with a hug at the airport.

"It's an absolute disgrace by the Trump administration to be deporting a patriotic spouse," Soto said. "Her husband, Temo, served in the Marines ... while she was at home on the home-front, raising two young women. What justice does this serve?"

Alejandra ultimately decided to "self-deport" to Mexico, rather than turn herself in to be detained and then deported. After 20 years in the United States, she no longer has family or friends in the country, so she chose Merida, a city in the Yucatan where a small community of deported military



Alejandra Juarez, 39, left, says goodbye to her children, Pamela and Estela at the Orlando International Airport on Friday, Aug. 3, 2018 in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

spouses might help her.

Emotionally spent, she wiped her own tears behind sunglasses and stroked Pamela's hair while gripping Estela, who stood by her side. Temo said he preferred not to talk before they were all escorted through security for their final goodbyes.

A reporter asked what she would say to the president.

Alejandra said she'd ask how Trump could let this happen, since he "always says he loves the military and he's doing everything for the military."

"My husband fought for this country three times. The administration, yourself, you think you are punishing me. You're not just punishing me," she said, referring to her family. □

Man who harassed Yellowstone bison arrested at Glacier park

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, Wyo. (AP) — An Oregon man who was caught on video harassing a bison in Yellowstone National Park was arrested in Glacier National Park in the third disturbance in less than a week at a national park, officials said Friday.

Rangers looking for Raymond Reinke of Pendleton, Oregon, found him causing a disturbance Thursday evening at the historic Many Glacier Hotel in the popular Montana park, the National Park Service said. He remains jailed pending a hearing next week and has requested a court-appointed attorney. A mes-

sage left at a phone listing for Reinke in Oregon was not immediately returned. Reinke, 55, had been cited for drunken and disorderly conduct in a third national park, Grand Teton, last Saturday and was released on \$500 bond that required him to follow the law and avoid alcohol.

Yellowstone rangers cited him three days later for not wearing a seat belt and noted that he appeared intoxicated, park officials said. They didn't know of Reinke's bond conditions at the time.

Reinke was later cited after another Yellowstone visitor took video of him walking



In this Aug. 3, 2016 photo, a herd of bison grazes in the Lamar Valley of Yellowstone National Park.

Associated Press

up to a bison in a roadway congested with stopped cars and waving his arms. The animal charges him a couple of times, but Reinke doesn't appear to get hurt.

Yellowstone officials warn visitors to stay at least 25 yards (23 meters) away from bison, which injure tourists every year who get too close.

After the video gained attention online and Yellowstone rangers learned of Reinke's charges in Grand Teton, an assistant U.S. attorney asked that his bond be revoked. A warrant was issued for Reinke's arrest.

He had told rangers he planned to travel to Glacier National Park. Rangers there were looking for his vehicle when they got a report about two guests arguing and creating a disturbance at Many Glacier Hotel.

Rangers identified one of the guests as Reinke, who was sent back to Yellowstone and appeared in U.S. court Friday. □

Greek minister resigns after criticism of wildfire response

By **COSTAS KANTOURIS**

ELENA BECATOROS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) —

Greece's public order minister resigned Friday over the deadly forest fire that killed at least 88 people in a seaside area near Athens last week, after spending days defending the way authorities had handled the disaster.

A government statement said Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras met with Nikos Toskas and accepted his resignation.

In a tweet after the meeting, Tsipras thanked Toskas for his "courage" in stepping down. "I warmly thank (him) for the honesty and dedication he displayed during the discharge of his duties," Tsipras added.

Toskas — and other government officials — came under intense criticism from Greek opposition parties over authorities' response to the devastating fire at the seaside resort of Mati, and for his assertion in a



In this Saturday, March 31, 2018 file photo, Greek public order minister Nikos Toskas attends a ceremony in Athens.

Associated Press

press conference that, despite considerable soul-searching, he had not discerned any major errors in how the emergency was handled.

Critics focused on the absence of any official evacuation effort for residents before the flames reached Mati, on police allegedly allowing traffic di-

versions that sent motorists into deadly fire zone, and on an allegedly delayed announcement of the first deaths.

Toskas also initially suggested that arsonists could be to blame for the fire, although later indications suggested negligence by somebody trying to burn garden waste.

Earlier Friday, the government said authorities will start demolishing dozens of illegal fences and other structures in the wider Athens region next week in a crackdown on structures built without permits.

Greek officials are claiming that such structures were a major contributing factor to the wildfire's high death

toll.

Environment Minister Giorgos Stathakis told Greek radio channel 24/7 that 61 structures, mainly fencing, will be removed at sites on beaches, streams and areas earmarked for reforestation in several regions of Attica.

The Mati blaze was the deadliest in decades, in a hot, dry country where summer wildfires are a constant major hazard.

Hundreds of people fled to beaches, but even there the flames and choking smoke from the wildfire forced many to swim out to sea despite gale-force winds.

Many survivors spent hours in the water until they were rescued by the coast guard, fishing boats and other boats. Several drowned.

Coroner Ilias Bogiokas said the wildfire was so hot that "there was almost nothing left" of many of the bodies. □

Hot, dusty and on fire: Portugal's heatwave breaks records

By **BARRY HATTON**

Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) —

Eight places in Portugal broke local temperature records Friday as a wave of heat from North Africa swept across the Iberian peninsula — and officials predicted the scorching temperatures could get even worse over the weekend.

Temperatures built to around 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) Friday in many inland areas of Portugal, and were expected to peak at 47 C (116.6 F) in some places Saturday. Large sections of Portugal are on red alert on the Civil Protection Agency's danger scale.

The highest temperature recorded Thursday, when the heat began to rise, was 45.2 C (113.4 F) near Abrantes, a town 150 kilometers (93 miles) northeast of the capital, Lisbon, the country's weather agency IPMA said.

Portugal's highest recorded



A seagull flies over at La Concha beach during a hot summer day in the basque city of San Sebastian, northern Spain, Friday, Aug. 3, 2018.

Associated Press

temperature was 47.4 C (117.3 F) in 2003. Emergency services have issued a red alert through Sunday, placing extra services such as medical staff and firefighters on standby.

In Portugal's southern Alentejo province, streets were largely deserted. Some farmers chose to work during the night instead of in the heat of the day. Beaches around Lisbon, the capi-

tal, were packed.

Some 400 firefighters and five water-dropping aircraft, meanwhile, were battling a wildfire in southern Portugal's Algarve region.

Portugal sees large wildfires every year, although unseasonably cool weather through the end of July has meant fewer blazes in 2018. The government says only about 15 percent of

the 10-year average area has been charred so far this year.

Temperatures were being driven higher across the Iberian peninsula by a hot air mass moving northward from Africa, which is also bringing dust from the Sahara Desert, meteorologists said. The dust gave the sky a dark yellow hue in some places.

In Spain, heat warnings were also issued for 41 of the country's 50 provinces as temperatures were expected to reach up to 44 C (111.2 F). Spain's highest recorded temperature is 46.9 C (116.42 F) in Cordoba, a southern city, in July 2017. The World Meteorological Organization says continental Europe's record is 48 C (118.4 F) in Greece in 1977.

In northern Europe, Sweden was still under threat from wildfires, which in recent weeks have extended into the Arctic Circle.

Sweden's Civil Contingencies Agency warned of "a

high risk" for wildfires in central and southern Sweden this weekend because of the continuing dry weather and strong winds.

And over in Britain, an unusually long, torrid summer has taken its toll on the country's flowers. The supermarket chain Morrisons has begun selling "wonky" flowers that have not developed properly.

The U.K.'s Met Office weather service says July was the country's third-warmest month in more than a century. In Moscow, as temperatures rose to close to 30 C (86 F), city authorities announced they were opening hundreds of "cool rooms" where residents could rest amid air conditioning, with water dispensers and medical attendants.

Although that temperature is far below the blazing heat hitting southern Europe, it's well above the Russian capital's average August maximum of 23 C (73 F). □



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Outgoing UN rights chief: No regrets for speaking up

By EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. human rights chief defended his outspoken criticism of abuses in dozens of countries from Myanmar and Hungary to the United States, insisting that his office doesn't "bring shame on governments, they shame themselves."

Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein stressed at a farewell news conference at U.N. headquarters on Thursday that "silence does not earn you any respect — none."

Looking back at his four-year term as U.N. high commissioner for human rights, the Jordanian prince said he will give his successor the same advice his predecessor, Navi Pillay, gave him — "be fair and don't discriminate against any country" and "just come out swinging."

Zeid said he leaves the Geneva-based post on Aug. 31 very concerned about populism, intolerance and oppression "becoming fashionable again."

"It all builds because once you start down the path of intolerance, it's very difficult to stop it, unless at the end of the day you have conflict," he said.

Zeid said the question he has been asking populist leaders in Hungary, Poland and Austria — who are making political gains thanks in part to their opposition to mass migration — is where do they want to see their countries in 2030.

If the trend is going to be "increasing authoritarianism" where countries pursue



In this Feb. 7, 2018, file photo, U.N. human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein pauses during a press conference in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Associated Press

individual agendas, he said those agendas will collide "and eventually we have what we've already seen in the 20th century."

Zeid recalled that it took 100 million lives lost through two world wars, the Holocaust and the Spanish influenza epidemic "to drive humanity to the point where it recognized that it had to begin to do things differently." That led to the formation of the United Nations where countries would try to solve problems together, "not at the expense of one another," he said.

But if the populists are allowed into "this space," Zeid said, "I think we're in very perilous waters."

He was highly critical of militant attacks, but stressed

that "the world is not going to break because of these terrorist outrages."

"It will break because of the overreaction or the exploitation of this agenda by governments," Zeid said.

He cited as an example a study by the U.N. Development Program on recruitment by armed groups in northern Mali that found 70 percent of respondents said the major cause was excessive use of force by security forces.

"We have to put up a mirror before all governments," he said. "They shame themselves when they deprive their people of their basic necessities for a dignified life. They shame themselves when they discriminate against parts of their com-

munities. They shame themselves when they stoke fear and make people fear that they have to bend to the will of the government or face consequences."

"If an election has been stolen, rigged, by a corrupt government and then they claim that I can't say anything because I violate their sovereignty, whose sovereignty?" Zeid asked. "Sovereignty always lies with the people. It's exercised by government on people's behalf."

Zeid said governments put a lot of pressure on him and his office, but "the real pressure comes from the victims" whose human rights have been violated in Syria, Iraq, Congo and many other countries "because

you know the limitations of what you can do."

The most meaningful part of his work is stopping an execution, getting someone who has been detained for years released, and successfully pushing for human rights adherence — and then receiving a letter of thanks from the family or the individual.

"We have to speak, and we have to engage," Zeid said, even if it poses difficulties for other U.N. colleagues including Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"Sometimes we make mistakes and I have apologized publicly to governments," he said. But "if I'm going to make a mistake, I'd rather make the mistake speaking out and not regretting that I didn't say anything when I should have said something."

Zeid cited human rights investigations the Human Rights Council has authorized in Syria, Myanmar, Yemen, and most recently in Venezuela and Nicaragua. But he said his greatest success has been demanding access for rights officials. He said when access is barred, including in Myanmar's Rakhine state where about 700,000 Rohingya Muslims lived before fleeing a violent military crackdown last year, and Venezuela, he asks: "What are they hiding?"

The United States pulled out of the Human Rights Council in June, citing "chronic bias against Israel."

"I think we've been fair with everyone and firm with everyone," Zeid said. □

A last showdown looms over Syrian opposition stronghold

By SARAH EL DEEB

BEIRUT (AP) — For nearly three years, green buses have filed into Syria's Idlib province, bringing those evacuated from other opposition enclaves that fell to government forces — thousands of defeated rebel fighters, wanted activists and civilians who refused to go back under President Bashar Assad's rule.

They now face what is likely to be the last showdown between Assad's forces and the opposition. Assad has vowed to retake the province, and pro-government media promise the "mother of all battles."

If it comes to an all-out assault, it could bring a humanitarian crisis. Filled with displaced from elsewhere, the province in Syria's north-west corner is packed with some 3 million people, the most deeply irreconcilable with Assad's government and including some of the world's most radical militants. They have little option but to make a stand, with few good places to escape.

"Currently, all (opposition) from around Syria came to Idlib. The only solution is to fight. There is no alternative," said Firas Barakat, an Idlib resident. The 28-year old said that for years he has dedicated himself to civilian opposition activities, but now he must take up arms.

The opposition capture of Idlib in 2015 signaled the low point for Assad's government during the course



This photo provided on Monday, July 22, 2018, shows militants of the al-Qaida-linked coalition known as Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, Arabic for Levant Liberation Committee overlooking a battlefield in rural Lattakia, Syria.

Associated Press

of war that is now nearly 8 years old — a time when rebels controlled large parts of two main Syrian cities, major highways, border crossings, dams and oil resources.

Russian and Iranian backing enabled Assad's military to claw back territory. Most recently, it scored a victory with heavy symbolic resonance in the south, recapturing Daraa, one of the first places to rise against Assad's rule in 2011.

Around a third of the country still remains out of government hands in the north and east, most of it held by U.S.-backed Kurdish-led forces that wrested it from the Islamic State group. But Idlib stands as the last significant enclave of the armed opposition that rose up dedicated to ousting

Assad.

"When we saw the resistance collapse in the south — and we thought it never would give it was the first to resist the government — fear really prevailed here," said Barakat. Squeezed, the opposition is desperate. But its forces are not small, and their territory is not tiny and sealed off as other opposition holdouts were. That portends a complex and difficult battle.

The number of fighters in Idlib is estimated at several tens of thousands, including thousands of battle-hardened militants from al-Qaida-linked groups and from China's Turkic-speaking Uighur minority. Although the al-Qaida-linked group dominates, other non-jihadi factions have maintained their presence, including some of the earliest forces to take up arms against Assad. With Turkey's backing, they have formed a "National Liberation Front," excluding al-Qaida.

Idlib has seen a wave of lawlessness and assassinations among the various factions, including shootings and car bombs. Saeed al-Nakrashi, a rebel leader originally from near Damascus, was kidnapped and held for 50 days. He blamed al-Qaida-linked militants and said his family paid \$75,000 for his release. The opposition-held area abuts the Turkish border on

the north and west. Though Turkey has built a wall, the border remains porous, providing a supply line for fighters. That wall could be overwhelmed if massive numbers try to flee Idlib.

To the east is an enclave held by Turkish-backed Syrian fighters, a possible escape route for anyone fleeing, though it is already overwhelmed by displaced.

Rumblings have started. Activists report government reinforcements arriving at Abu Duhur air base in eastern Idlib, which Assad's forces seized early this year. Troops have been shelling Jisr el-Shughur, a strategic opposition-held town overlooking the government stronghold on the Mediterranean coast.

Just how ferocious an offensive turns out to be depends on diplomatic maneuvering among the power players — particularly Russia. It appears reluctant for an all-out assault.

Russia is juggling between longtime ally Syria and its new friend Turkey, which has become central to the political process Moscow is leading to try to resolve the conflict.

Assad vows to restore all of Syria to its control. Turkey fears an assault will send a flood of refugees — and militants — swarming to its border.

Under a deal with Russia and Iran, Turkey has de-

ployed around 1,000 troops at 12 observation points around Idlib to monitor a cease-fire, effectively standing between government forces and the opposition. It is part of a "de-escalation" zone in the province that ultimately aims to root out al-Qaida-linked groups as a basis for a future political process.

Turkey warns that a wide-scale offensive will wreck Russia's efforts.

Its deployment in Idlib is a "trip wire that will start to tug at the (agreements with Russia) if you try to walk through it," said Aron Lund, a Syria expert with the Century Foundation.

From the other side, the Syrian government is testing the Russia-Turkey relationship. During the latest meeting in Russia in July, Syria's U.N. ambassador Bashar Jaafari blasted Turkey, saying it has failed to weed out extremists from Idlib.

Jaafari said Damascus encourages reconciliation with rebels, but not with al-Qaida militants — adding that it is Turkey's responsibility "fight terrorism."

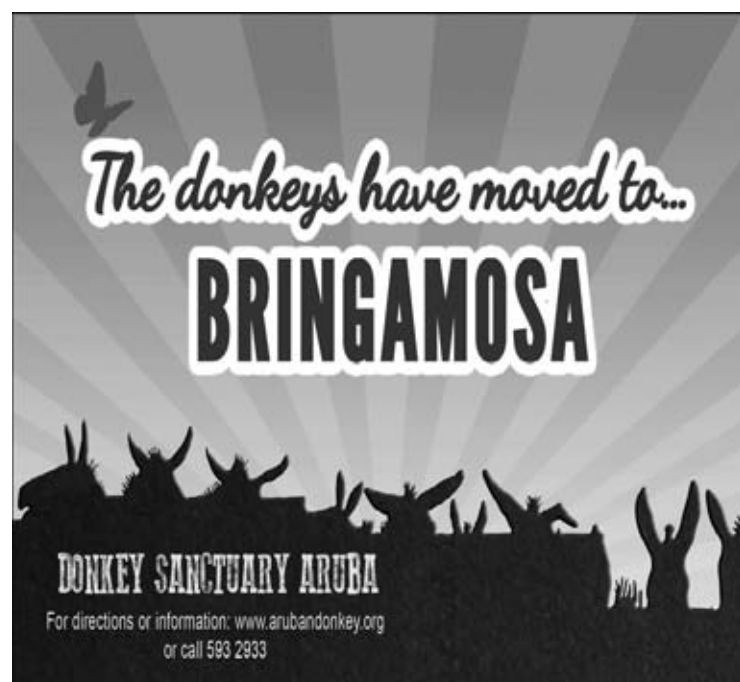
"If Idlib returns in reconciliation, this is well and good. And if it doesn't ...the Syrian army has the right to restore control over Idlib by force." That makes Russia's stance critical, said Sam Heller, a researcher with the International Crisis Group.

"Ultimately what determines the survival of Idlib may be external, and they relate to these geopolitical considerations," he said.

Russia has already said no wide offensive is expected. That has raised speculation over a limited operation to control Jisr al-Shughur or the main highway running through Idlib.

Wael Olwan — a spokesman for one of the strongest Turkish-backed Syrian factions, Faylaq al-Sham — said Turkey working with Syrian allies can "dissolve" the al-Qaida-linked factions.

But, he said, "I am not optimistic that Russia can hold back the regime forces long enough for Turkey to dismantle the radical groups." □





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Zimbabwe's 'Crocodile' faces tough challenges as president

By ANDREW MELDRUM

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

He's known as "the Crocodile," named after a small band of guerrillas battling white minority rule in the land once known as Rhodesia.

Now the 75-year-old Emmerson Mnangagwa has another big challenge as the new president of Zimbabwe: reviving its formerly prosperous economy, reining in the military and bridging the country's deep political divide resulting from a disputed election.

Like the reptile that stalks the rivers in this southern African country, Mnangagwa is more feared than popular.

But he has strategically fostered a base of loyalists within the military and security forces and has honed political skills that he learned from his longtime mentor Robert Mugabe, who served as president of Zimbabwe for 37 years.

For decades, Mnangagwa was Mugabe's enforcer, earning a reputation for effectively manipulating the levers of power.

A leading Cabinet member since Zimbabwe's independence in 1980, he became vice president in 2014. He was fired by Mugabe in November 2017 and immediately left the country, claiming his life was in danger. The army then put Mugabe under house arrest, and within two weeks, Mnangagwa was back in Zimbabwe, where the ZANU-PF party and then parliament voted to make him president.

On Monday, Zimbabwe held its first general election without Mugabe on the ballot, and Mnangagwa ran a campaign that was considerably more free than previous ones. His party allowed the opposi-



Zimbabwean President elect Emmerson Mnangagwa prepares to address a press conference in Harare, Friday, Aug. 3, 2018.

Associated Press

tion to campaign safely throughout the country, in both urban and rural areas. International observers were invited after an absence of 18 years.

But the peaceful balloting has turned messy and violent: Opposition leader Nelson Chamisa has alleged there was vote fraud, protesters filled the streets of Harare on Wednesday, and a violent crackdown by the military and police resulted in at least six deaths.

When the result was announced more than three days after the election, the Electoral Commission said Mnangagwa got 50.8 percent of the vote to Chamisa's 44.3 percent.

On Friday, Mnangagwa's government had to pull back three truckloads of riot police who were trying to prevent a news conference by Chamisa challenging the outcome. Mnangagwa quickly issued a statement saying the po-

lice should not have taken such action, but by then the media had broadcast around the world the menacing actions by the security forces.

During the campaign, Mnangagwa has worked to develop a friendly image and appear more youthful by dyeing his once-gray hair. He has adopted as his trademark a striking scarf in Zimbabwe's reggae colors. More substantively, Mnangagwa says he will run a business-friendly government focused on rebuilding the economy. Yet the military violence showed

an authoritarian streak reminiscent of the 94-year-old Mugabe.

"Can a Crocodile change his scales? It's unlikely, but we will see how he reaches out to the nation, how magnanimous he is in his acceptance and inauguration speeches," said Piers Pigou, southern Africa expert for the International Crisis Group. "He is making all the right noises. But the specter of the military shooting protesters in Harare shows that it will be difficult for him to operate independently from the army."

Mnangagwa's links to the military and ruling party go back decades. He joined the fight against white-minority rule while still a teenager in the 1960s, receiving military training in Egypt and China. He was captured, tortured and convicted of blowing up a locomotive in 1965.

Sentenced to death by hanging, he was found to be under 21, and so his punishment was commuted to 10 years in prison. He was jailed with other prominent nationalists, including Mugabe.

While imprisoned, Mnangagwa took correspondence courses. After his release in 1975, he went to Zambia, where he completed a law degree and started practicing. Later, in newly independent Marxist Mozambique, he became Mugabe's assistant and bodyguard. In 1979, he accompanied Mugabe to the talks in London that led to the birth of Zimbabwe.

"Our relationship has over the years blossomed beyond that of master and servant to father and son," Mnangagwa wrote last year of his relationship with Mugabe. When Zimbabwe achieved independence in 1980, Mnangagwa was appointed security minister. He directed the merger of the Rhodesian army with Mugabe's guerrilla forces and the forces of rival nationalist leader Joshua Nkomo. □

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Brazil's top court wrestles with abortion during hearings

By PETER PRENGAMAN
BEATRICE CHRISTOFARO
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Supporters and opponents of legalizing abortion testified Friday in front of Brazil's top court, which is holding two days of extraordinary hearings on an issue increasingly debated in South America. The hearings at the Supreme Federal Tribunal come as a handful of countries in South America have moved toward decriminalizing the procedure in the first trimester of pregnancy. In Brazil, a deeply conservative nation that is home to the world's largest population of Catholics and fast-growing evangelical faiths, abortion is illegal and comes with a punishment of up to three years in prison. There are three exceptions: if a woman is raped, pregnancy puts her life in danger, or the fetus is brain-dead.

The question before the court is whether to allow



A demonstrator holds a plastic doll shaped like a fetus during a Catholic church event against the legalization of abortion, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018.

Associated Press

elective abortions during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

Some emphasized a fetus' right to life, while others said that inequality makes the current ban particu-

larly onerous on poor black women.

Debora Diniz, an anthropologist and law professor at the University of Brasilia, told the story of a black maid who, already strug-

gling to raise three children, had an illegal abortion and died. Citing a 2016 survey undertaken by the university, Diniz noted that 1 in 5 Brazilian women under 40 years old have had an ille-

gal abortion.

"The crime is how women are having abortions," said Diniz, who earlier in the week said she had received threats because of her vocal position on the topic.

Hermes Rodrigues Nery, from the National Association of Pro-Life and Pro-Family, argued that the right to life begins at conception and that concerned groups should focus on attacking the root causes of poverty, not helping the poor get abortions.

"The culture of death impedes our development as a nation, development that only comes from human capital," he said.

More than 40 experts from all sides of the debate were expected to testify on Friday and Monday, Aug. 6, but there was no timeline on when the court could make a decision.

to terminate an unwanted pregnancy. □

A glimpse into life in Cuba's 2 Guantanamos

By RAMON ESPINOSA
Associated Press

GUANTANAMO, Cuba (AP) — While Muslims detained at the U.S. naval station base at Guantanamo Bay bowed their heads in prayer on a recent day, Cuban men in the nearby city of Guantanamo tooted horns and banged on drums as they prepared for a carnival.

The two Guantanamos have been a contrast since the U.S. opened the base at the southeastern tip of the island in 1903, following the Spanish-American War, and the divide has only grown under Cuba's communist government, which refuses to cash the annual rent checks from Washington as it insists the U.S. leave.

People on both sides of the closely monitored boundary have long led different lives, yet they all live under government restrictions and appeals to patriotism. They are separated by a "cactus curtain" planted by Cuban soldiers in the early

1960s following the revolution led by Fidel Castro, to deter Cubans from trying to find refuge at the base. Some land mines are also believed to remain on Cuban soil, while the troops on the U.S. side rely on sound and motion sensors.

Some 5,000 U.S. military personnel, dependents and civilian contractors live on the base. The detention center that opened there in January 2002 now holds 40 detainees, including five men facing trial by military commission for planning

and aiding the 9/11 terror attack on the U.S.

The city of Guantanamo is home to about 200,000 people, many of whom work in agriculture. They cultivate cocoa, sugarcane, coffee and other crops, compared with the

small garden featuring sunflowers at the base that detainees tend as the Stars and Stripes flutter overhead.

Hours after the harsh sun reaches its peak, Marines and sailors at the base sometimes head to the beach in their uniforms. Cubans in Guantanamo strip off their clothes and jump into a bright green river where horses also take a refreshing dip. At dawn, U.S. military personnel put on sneakers and head out for runs, while young Cubans clad in flip-flops exercise at a small park in the city.

Even though Fidel Castro died nearly two years ago, he lives on in the two Guantanamos. His name is emblazoned on a concrete sign on the highway leading into the city that reads, "Yo Soy Fidel." A bobble-head figure of the former leader chomping on his trademark cigar is sold at the base radio station, whose motto is "Rock-in' in Fidel's Backyard." □



In this July 24, 2018 photo, a taxi driver steers his classic American car past a sign that says in Spanish "I'm Fidel" on road to Guantanamo Bay naval base, Cuba.

Associated Press

LOCAL



Caribbean Linked V



ORANJESTAD — Ateliers '89, Oranjestad, Aruba in collaboration with The Fresh Milk Art Platform, Barbados and ARC Magazine is pleased to announce that the regional residency Caribbean Linked V will be taking place at Ateliers '89 from August 6th through 28th, 2018. The official opening event will be held on Wednesday, August 8th from 8pm – 12am.

The Caribbean Linked Artist Residency Program is a crucial space for building awareness across disparate creative communities of the Caribbean by finding ways to connect young and emerging artists with each other. This regional residency project focuses on the sustainable development, regional integration and critical education of younger artists while exposing Dutch Antillean, Anglophone, Francophone and Hispanic artists to each other.

This residency will allow the participants to be exposed to the practices of other emerging Caribbean artists, providing an opportunity to strengthen regional connections and cultural understanding. This edition of Caribbean Linked is particularly focused on socially engaged practices, public art and performance art. Caribbean Linked creates viable opportunities for young artists, writers, critics and creative activists to foster new relationships

with a larger community, contributing to the holistic development of the creative industries. In addition, it provides the opportunity to link with industry professionals who facilitate access to wider global conversations for the region's practitioners, while allowing the artists to create work, exchange ideas and participate in larger dialogues around art production.

Caribbean Linked is providing the necessary support which allows for regional integration and understanding to occur naturally, through the arts. Art has the ability to function and operate as a bridge to narrow the gaps in our cultural differences, revealing similarities that are essential for progress/growth.

In our local communities, there are major socio-economic problems plaguing the futures of emerging talent. Caribbean Linked functions as an act of resistance against failing political and resolute nationalistic systems. It raises issues of collective futures by discussing the survival of artists and the sustainability of local and intra-regional creative communities.

The core team of Elvis Lopez (Ateliers '89), Holly Bynoe (ARC Magazine) and Annalee Davis (Fresh Milk) work together alongside their colleagues from other thriving contemporary arts spaces throughout

the Caribbean to identify and nominate promising emerging artists from across the French, Spanish, Dutch and English islands, who are then invited to participate in this unique and invaluable residency.

This process is necessarily informed by a collaborative approach with the arts initiatives in other islands that are well connected to their local art scenes. It also takes into consideration this inclusion of artists from islands on the fringes of the region, or that may often be left out of the larger conversations which usually take place in relation to Caribbean contemporary art.

The driving force behind Caribbean Linked is to cohere the region through the arts and dissolve boundaries between the islands, whether they be linguistic, geographical or cultural. By highlighting what binds us rather than what separates us, this program aims to plant the seeds of long term relationships that will strengthen and promote the growth of a healthy, unified cultural ecosystem in the Caribbean.

Artists this year include Irvin Aguilar (Mexico/Aruba), Franz Caba (Dominican Republic), Kriston Chen (Trinidad & Tobago), Sharelly Emanuelson (Curaçao), Gladys Gambie (Martinique), Adam Patterson (Barbados), Velvet Zoe Ramos (Aruba), Averia Wright (The Bahamas) and Raily Stiven Yance (Venezuela).

The writer in residence will be art historian and independent curator Marina Reyes Franco (Puerto Rico). Visiting artists who will be lending support to Ateliers '89 during the residency will be Laura de Vogel (Aruba) and Katherine



Kennedy (Barbados). This year's specially invited curators will be Alex Martínez Suárez, independent curator and general coordinator and museographer at the Museo Fernando Peña Defilló, a private museum in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and Miguel A. Lopez, co-director and chief curator of TEOR/ética

in San José, Costa Rica.

For more information, call Ateliers '89 at (+297) 565 4613, email caribbeanlinked@gmail.com or visit the Caribbean Linked website at caribbeanlinked.com, and follow the Caribbean Linked Facebook page for regular updates on the residency! □

Today Is Going To Be A Good Day



Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whip-tail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.arubanationalpark.org

Philip's Animal Garden

To stay with the animals, let's hop to an amazing place. Something different to do, an experience that is to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Welcome to Philip's Animal Garden. We are not talking about a zoo here, this is actually a sanctuary for all types of creatures, from horses to peacocks, kangaroos

to turtles, monkeys, goats, and many, many more different species. The place was founded in 2009 and it is the only organization rescuing and rehabilitating exotic animals in Aruba, which has resulted in an amazing collection of these animals. They provide a suitable living environment for all the rescued animals. Up until now the owner, Philip, has built this shelter with his own efforts; building all the cages from scratch, designing all structures and welding them with his own bare hands. His goal is to upgrade the facilities to a world-class animal shelter with veterinary care and round-the-clock staffs. With the input from the Aruban community and visitors they provide the best care for these animals. Please check out their website for more information: www.philipsanimalgarden.com.

The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California

Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. www.arubalighthouse.com will give you more information.

Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook. □



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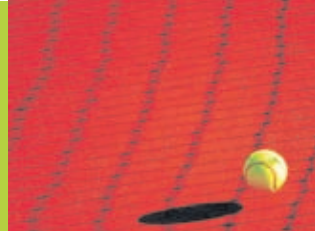
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SPORTS



Travel woes force cancellation of Aces- Mystics game

By DOUG FEINBERG, AP
Basketball Writer

The game between the Las Vegas Aces and Washington Mystics on Friday night has been canceled. The decision was made about 1 1/2 hours before the scheduled tip-off in Washington.

Las Vegas had an adventure getting to Washington with travel woes causing the team to arrive in D.C. at 3 p.m. They were scheduled to take off from Las Vegas on Thursday afternoon, but their flight was delayed more than eight hours before being canceled.

The team scrambled to get on overnight flights that got the players to Dallas on Friday morning where they could connect to Washington.

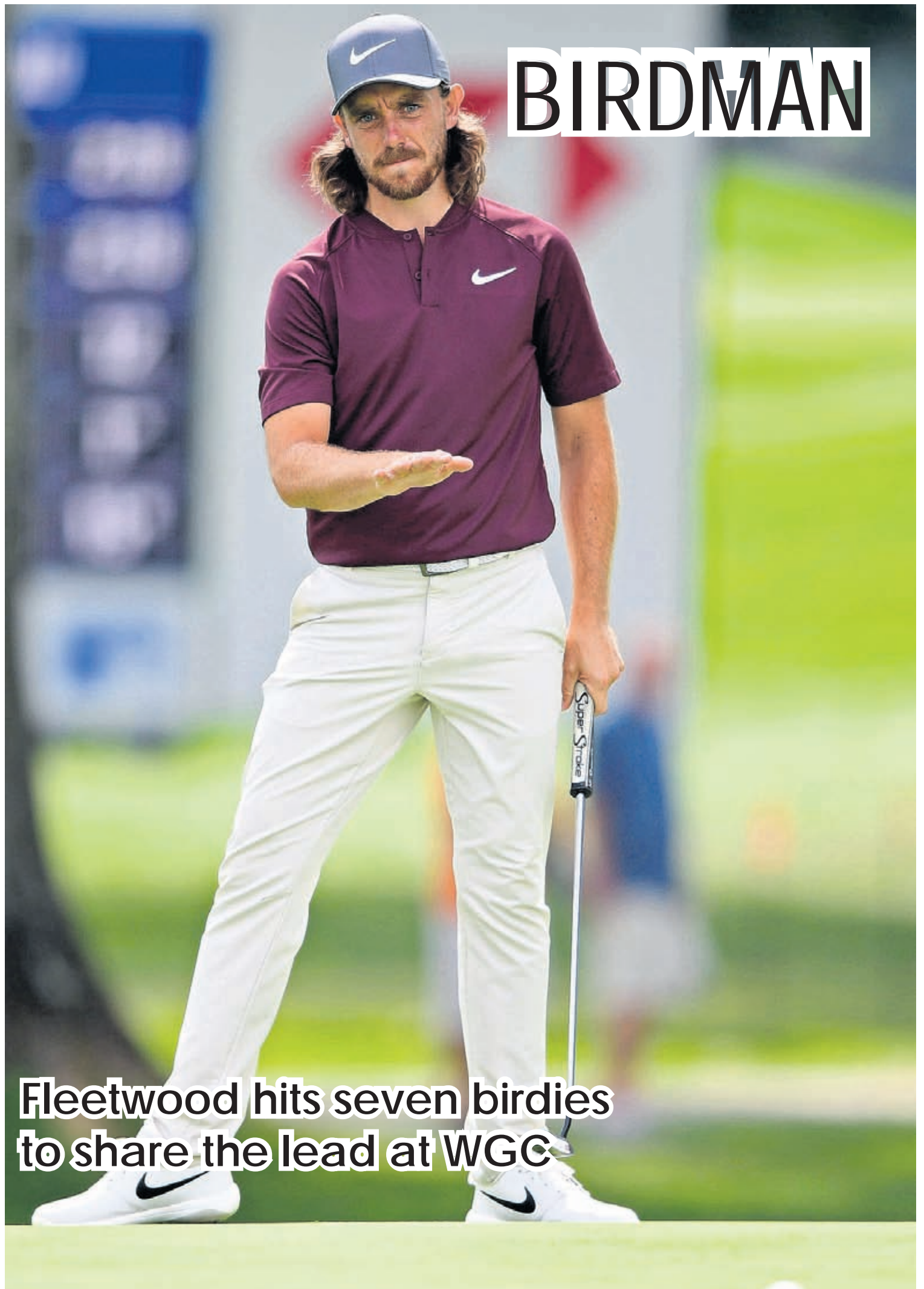
The Aces then had to split their team up into groups to get on different flights in Texas with the last set of players boarding a flight that gets into Washington around 3 p.m. The WNBA moved the original tipoff back an hour to 8 p.m.

"I'm really disappointed that the Las Vegas players and organization didn't come to compete," Mystics coach Mike Thibault said in a phone interview Friday night. "If you're there and in the city and can play, you should show up and play."

Thibault recalled a story that when he was coaching in Connecticut in 2003 the team was in Cleveland when a massive blackout hit the east coast.

Continued on Page 22

BIRDMAN



Fleetwood hits seven birdies to share the lead at WGC

Tommy Fleetwood, from England, watches his putt on the 18th hole during the second round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament at Firestone Country Club, Friday, Aug. 3, 2018, in Akron, Ohio.

Associated Press
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Sibling rivalry: Alexander Zverev beats brother Mischa in D.C.

By HOWARD FENDRICH

WASHINGTON (AP) — For brothers Alexander and Mischa Zverev, this was, in many ways, just like many another day on the professional tennis tour: They warmed up together at a tournament.

The difference on Thursday at the Citi Open, where Alexander is the defending champion and seeded No. 1? For the first time after one of those practice sessions, the two Zverevs faced each other in an ATP main-draw match.

Seems safe to say Alexander has never hugged an opponent quite the way he did No. 15 seed Mischa after beating his older sibling 6-3, 7-5 to reach the quarterfinals at the hard-court tuneup for the U.S. Open. And Mischa has never beamed after a loss quite the way he did on this occasion — or dealt with the emotions he experienced beforehand.

"A lot of different feelings. First of all, happiness; I was proud. When we were at the coin toss and then took the picture and I walked back to the baseline, I had to, like, a little bit fight my tears, because I felt like, 'It just finally came true,'" said

Mischa, who turns 31 in a few weeks, while Alexander is 21. "Because we've been playing against each other in the backyard in our mini-tennis court and imagining that we would play against each other, like, in a Grand Slam final."

This was not quite Zverev vs. Zverev for the Wimbledon trophy, as the two Germans had first dreamed about a decade or so ago. Still, it was a unique moment, with their father, Alexander Sr. — the man who taught both how to play tennis and coaches them to this day — sitting in a front-row seat in a corner of the stadium. Their mother was in the stands, too.

"I just enjoyed it out there," Alexander said.

The day began with a rain delay of about 3 1/2 hours, and by the time everything wrapped up just past 3 a.m. on Friday, three-time major champion Andy Murray had won his third consecutive three-setter, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-6 (4) over 93rd-ranked Marius Copil, and sobbed into a towel afterward. They hadn't started until midnight, and Murray complained afterward about how it will be impossible to recover in time for



Alexander Zverev, of Germany, smiles as he hugs his brother Mischa Zverev, of Germany, foreground, after defeating him 6-3, 7-5, during the Citi Open tennis tournament in Washington, Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018.

his quarterfinal Friday.

Murray, who is working his way back into shape after having hip surgery in January, is to face 19-year-old Alex de Minaur next. The other quarterfinal matchups are Alexander Zverev vs. No. 7 Kei Nishikori, who defeated No. 9 Denis Shapovalov 7-6 (1), 6-3; No. 3 David Goffin vs. No. 10 Stefanos Tsitsipas, and No. 16 Andrey Rublev vs. Denis Kudla.

No. 2 John Isner was eliminated 6-4, 7-6 (6) in the second round on Thursday by Noah Rubin, who then had

to go out and play another match, which he lost to Rublev.

The Zverevs had met twice before in qualifying matches, most recently in 2014, but never during the real rounds of a tournament. Their match Thursday was the first between brothers on tour since Gerald and Jurgen Melzer played two years ago.

The dynamics were a bit different from a usual match. The Zverevs know each other's on-court strengths and weaknesses so well. There wasn't much emotion

from either. And not much cheering from spectators, who maybe had a hard time picking which one to pull for. Instead of using simply a last name to refer to a player, the normal practice, the chair umpire used first names, too. As in: "Game, Sascha Zverev," using Alexander's nickname. The most interaction between the siblings came during a 15-minute rain delay in the second set, when they exchanged a few words about whether or not play should resume — and then when the last point arrived. Alexander hit a short shot that Mischa chased but put into the net. Mischa continued around to the other side and walked up to Alexander for a lengthy embrace.

They shared some words, then walked off the court together, and Mischa grabbed Alexander by the scruff of the neck.

"A big day," Mischa said. "A big match."

Alexander is ranked No. 3, Mischa No. 42. Alexander is a righty, Mischa a lefty. Alexander is 6-foot-6 (1.98) and prefers baseline exchanges, while Mischa is 6-foot-3 (1.91 meters) and likes to go to the net. □



Thailand's Pornanong Phatlum plays THE 15th Green during day two of the Women's British Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club in Lytham, England, Friday, Aug. 3, 2018.

Associated Press

LYTHAM ST. ANNES, England (AP) — Pornanong Phatlum of Thailand is standing out at the Women's British Open for more than just her pink golf ball. The 97th-ranked player has yet to drop a shot in two straight rounds of 5-under 67 that will give her a one-stroke lead heading into the weekend at the year's fourth major.

While first-round leader

Minjee Lee and Mamiko Higa encountered problems down the stretch at a rainy Royal Lytham to give up two-shot leads on Friday, Pornanong played a steady hand and put her pink ball in all the right places — explicitly, out of the many bunkers that define the course.

The 28-year-old Thai missed a 10-foot putt for birdie in front of the clubhouse on

Bogey-free Pornanong leads Women's British Open after 2nd 67

the 18th green but that didn't get her down. She was 10 under par overall. "I've had a game plan," Pornanong said. "I try to plan every shot, every hole."

It's given her a great chance of winning a first major title, and claiming a first victory on the LPGA Tour. Her last win was on the Asian Tour in January 2015 and she has only one top-10 finish all year. Pornanong's only top-10 at a major was a tie for seventh at the U.S. Women's Open in 2014.

She has already put some distance between many of the big names in women's golf.

Top-ranked Ariya Jutanugarn was seven shots

back after rounds of 71 and 70, No. 6 Shanshan Feng (71-71) was one stroke further back, and No. 2 Inbee Park (76-74) missed the cut.

Only six players were inside five shots of Pornanong. They have pedigree, though.

In a three-way share of second place on 9 under is Lee, who was clear at 12 under before she double-bogeyed No. 16 and dropped another shot at No. 17 to post a 70.

Lee, the Australian at a career-high ranking of No. 8, was runner-up on the Gullane links in the Ladies Scottish Open last week. Home favorite Georgia

Hall (68) was in the tie for second place along with Higa, who was leading by two strokes on 11 under when she lost her ball in a gorse bush at No. 17 and wound up with a double-bogey 6.

Third-ranked Park Sung-hyun, who won the Women's PGA Championship last month, is lurking in sixth place on 7 under after rounds of 67 and 70. Seventh-ranked Ryu So-yeon, a two-time major champion, is on 6 under after two rounds of 69.

Brooke Henderson of Canada aced the par-3 ninth hole on her way to a 70, which put her in a six-way tie for eighth place on 5 under. □

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Thomas, Fleetwood, Poulter share lead at Firestone

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Nobody has a better scoring average Saturday on the PGA Tour than Tiger Woods, and the Bridgestone Invitational would be a good time to keep that up. Woods might not have a choice.

Neither will Rory McIlroy, Jason Day or anyone else wanting to keep pace.

Tommy Fleetwood took advantage of another soft day of good scoring at Firestone with a 7-under 63. So did PGA champion Justin Thomas, who was particularly sharp with his putter for a 64. They shared the lead with Ian Poulter, who had a head start with his career-low 62 and backed it up decently enough Friday with a 67.

They all played early and finished at 11-under 129.

No one could catch them, mainly because there was just enough breeze to cause just enough doubt.

Even so, 45 players from the 71-man field were under par, a rarity at Firestone. Woods, whose last victory was five years ago when he won this World Golf Championship for a record eighth time, got within four shots of the lead with a tee shot to 2 feet on the par-3 12th hole. He went 1 over the rest of the way for a 68, leaving him five shots behind.

Is another Saturday move in the works.

"I'm going to have to," Woods said. "The golf course is playing very soft, very receptive. And when you're able to hit 5-irons and they only roll out about

a foot, the guys are going to put up good scores. There's 40-plus guys under par. That's never the case here at Firestone. So tomorrow is going to be one of those days I'm going to have to go out there and post a low one and see what happens."

Fleetwood, the runner-up at the U.S. Open, was most pleased to see nothing higher than 4s on his scorecard. He made it look easy, except for a few times he was slightly out of position, and hit perhaps his best shot with a 6-iron to a back-left pin that settled 3 feet below the cup.

"My irons, I just tended to hit exactly where we were picking the spots and I holed a few putts," Fleetwood said. "You've got days like that where it's going well, and you've just got to make the most of them." Day, who threw away a chance to win at Firestone two years ago, did make as many as he would have liked. He still had a 66 playing in the same group with Woods, and joined Kyle Stanley (68) two shots behind the leaders.

McIlroy was another shot behind after a finishing a day of frustration with two birdies. He was in position to make birdies, especially that 380-yard drive he launched at the 482-yard eighth hole that left him only a sand wedge in. It came up short, rolled down a slope and left him 45 feet away. He blasted a 319-yard drive down the middle at the 10th, only to hit sand wedge just over the green and made bogey.

His finish began with a tee shot on the 17th hole that landed closer to the 16th fairway. His approach went into the front bunker, and he holed out for birdie. Then, he stuffed one on the 18th for another short birdie at a 67.

"An adventure to say the least," McIlroy said. "I was 1 under standing on the 17th tee and I think if I had to finish 1 under, it would have felt like the worst I could have shot today. So to get those two birdies on the last two holes is obviously very nice and gets a couple closer to the lead."

Woods opened with a bogey, bounced back with three birdies over his next four holes and looked like he might make a move with his birdie on the 12th. Two holes later, he faced such an awkward lie from the top collar of a bunker that he wasn't sure how to stand or how hard to hit it. He hit it too hard, through the green, made bogey and missed birdie chances coming in.

This is only the fourth time he has been five shots or closer going into the weekend this year, but there are plenty of others around him. Also five shots back were Jon Rahm of Spain, who had a sloppy finish for a 70, Tony Finau (68) and Players champion Webb Simpson (65).

The only regret for Thomas was a mistake that didn't cost him as much as it could have. He was in the rough off the tee at the par-5 16th and still had some 284 yards to reach the green, with a pond in front. The dis-



Justin Thomas watches his putt on the 15th hole during the second round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament at Firestone Country Club, Friday, Aug. 3, 2018, in Akron, Ohio.

Associated Press

tance wasn't an issue, but Thomas said later that odds were against him making a birdie, and the safer route would have been to lay up and rely on his wedge.

He hit 3-wood too far right and into the water.

"We were lucky to get up-and-down for 6, but that was a stupid decision," Thomas.

The rest of his game, espe-

cially with the putter, was sharp.

"It was definitely one of the better putting days I've had in a while," Thomas said. "I just hit a lot of quality putts. That's what's most important. I've had days where I've missed more but putt-ed better. ... To me, that's not as frustrating as what I was doing yesterday — just hitting bad putts." □

Ravens and Bears show off D, Baltimore wins 17-16

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — The goals were to let the backups play and learn, and to be inspired.

Missions accomplished.

The Ravens and Bears honored their great linebackers Ray Lewis and Brian Urlacher with some defense to make them proud in the Hall of Fame game that opened the NFL's pre-season Thursday night. Baltimore held on 17-16.

"Ray is the greatest linebacker of our time," said 2016 Heisman Trophy winner Lamar Jackson, who quarterbacked the second half for the Ravens. "That was a big thrill and exciting stuff."

Oh, there was a little spark of offense, some provided by Baltimore's first-round draft pick. Jackson's 7-yard touchdown pass to fellow first-rounder Hayden Hurst came after the Ravens' defense recovered a fumble. Chicago put together its best drive in the final minutes and journeyman Tyler Bray connected with Tanner Gentry for a 10-yard score to cap a 92-yard march. But the 2-point conversion pass fell incomplete.

Otherwise, D was the letter of the day: there were six turnovers in all, and 12 sacks, eight by the Bears.

"To represent Ray in this game to our guys meant even more," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said.

"It was a special moment for our organization," noted new Bears coach Matt Nagy.

The teams exchanged



Baltimore Ravens linebacker Kamalei Correa (51) runs after an interception against the Chicago Bears during the first half at the Pro Football Hall of Fame NFL preseason game Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018, in Canton, Ohio.

Associated Press

tipped interceptions on the first two possessions of the preseason.

Chicago moved swiftly downfield only to have Chase Daniel's pass to Josh Bellamy deflected to safety Chuck Clark at the Baltimore 6. He returned it 15 yards, then the Ravens replicated the turnover.

Robert Griffin III, attempting a comeback after sitting out 2017, had his pinpoint throw go off the hands of receiver Breshad Perriman, then off rookie cornerback Michael Joseph. DeAndre Houston-Carson dived to make the pick at the Ravens 34.

The Bears soon converted when Michael Burton caught a 4-yard scoring pass from Daniel.

Baltimore tied it, sparked by two big gainers by undrafted rookie running back Gus Edwards. Griffin found Maxx Williams for a 4-yard score.

"It felt great," Griffin said. "I can't tell you how grateful I am to play the game again."

Then Lewis' old unit gave him a thrill. On the next play from scrimmage, linebacker Kamalei Correa sped 19 yards with an interception to the Chicago 9. But Urlacher's former defense made him smile, sacking Griffin on third down to hold Baltimore to a 31-yard field goal by Kaare Vedvik. Generally, it was a sloppy affair among backups marred by a slew of dropped passes, poor

protection for the quarterbacks, and mishthrows by those QBs.

But something Lewis and Urlacher would approve, the defenses hit hard and tackled well.

NEW COACH, OFFENSE

Nagy, of late the offensive coordinator in Kansas City, made his head coaching debut with the Bears. He has said his new offense is in the early steps of development, and it looked that way all night.

Of course, with backups playing it's nearly impossible to gauge progress. But he was optimistic.

"The arrow is pointing up for us," he said. "We definitely took steps in the right direction."

INTROS

Each of the seven inductees to the hall who were on hand — Terrell Owens is a well-publicized no-show — received a rousing ovation when they were introduced before the game. Lewis replicated his patented warmup dance for a few seconds, and Urlacher slapped hand with every Bears player lined up on the 45-yard line.

"Ray was on the field getting all fired up, doing his thing," Harbaugh said.

"With both teams at the 45, I thought that was awesome, and then to see Ray come out, that was spectacular." Urlacher gave a pregame pep talk to the Bears in the locker room.

"It's so funny to see," veteran defensive lineman Akiem Hicks said. "Growing up, you've watched these guys, and you're one of the guys now who people come up and ask for pictures and autographs. Then you see Urlacher come into the locker room and you get to see all these NFL football players turn into kids ..."

"It's a phenomenal feeling." Also walking along mid-field between the lines of Ravens and Bears were Randy Moss, Brian Dawkins, Jerry Kramer, Robert Brazile and Bobby Beathard. Owens did make it onto the cover of the Hall of Fame enshrinement magazine, however.

At halftime, Hall of Famers Ozzie Newsome, the general manager of the Ravens, and Dan Fouts received their "Rings of Excellence" from David Baker, the hall's president. □

U.S. defeats Brazil 4-1 to clinch Tournament of Nations title

BRIDGEVIEW, Ill. (AP) — Julie Ertz, Tobin Heath and Alex Morgan scored second-half goals and the United States took control to beat Brazil 4-1 on Thursday night for the Tournament of Nations title.

Heath's curling goal in the 62nd minute put the United States up 3-1 and gave the team the margin it needed to edge defending tournament champion Australia.

The Matildas edged Japan 2-0 earlier in the day at Toyota Park, putting pressure on the Americans to beat Brazil by two goals to finish atop the table.

Morgan helped secure the title with her 90th international goal in the 77th minute and the Americans extended their undefeated streak to 19 matches. The United States has not dropped a match since

losing 1-0 to Australia in the Tournament of Nations last year.

There was concern in the final moments when Morgan was stretched off with an apparent injury, but she was on her feet for the trophy ceremony following the game. Morgan had four goals in the tournament.

"Brazil's so technical, so we knew that they were go-

ing to bring it. There's a lot of things that we can learn as well," Ertz said. "This tournament was huge for use in terms of progress, obviously with qualifying coming up. We're got to tweak a few things but I'm just so proud of this team and how hard we work for each other."

The United States, ranked No. 1 in the world, is gearing up for World Cup qualifying in October. The Americans

hope to defend their title next summer at the World Cup in France.

Brazil, ranked No. 7 in the world and led by five-time FIFA World Player of the Year Marta, has already qualified for France.

The Brazilians struck first with an own goal that hit Tierna Davidson in the 16th minute. But Lavelle tied it with her third international goal in the 33rd minute. □

Jose Martinez's single lifts Cardinals over Rockies 3-2

By The Associated Press
ST. LOUIS (AP) — Pinch-hitter Jose Martinez sliced an opposite-field single to the right-center field gap off Wade Davis with one out in the ninth inning, driving in the tying and go-ahead runs and lifting St. Louis over Colorado.

Greg Garcia singled with one out against Davis (2-4) and took third on a single by rookie Harrison Bader. Bader stole second, and Martinez singled on a high fastball, giving the Cardinals their ninth walk-off win this season.

Davis has a career-high five blown saves in 36 chances. Chasen Shreve (3-2), acquired from the New York Yankees on Saturday, pitched a perfect ninth in his second appearance for the Cardinals.

DODGERS 21, BREWERS 5
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cody Bellinger hit a grand slam, Joc Pederson and Yasiel Puig hit two homers each, and the Dodgers cruised past Milwaukee.

Brian Dozier and Justin Turner also went deep as the Dodgers finished with their highest scoring total at Dodger Stadium. Los Angeles hit a season high-tying seven homers, and also set season highs for runs in a game, and in an inning when they had nine in the seventh.

Clayton Kershaw (5-5) gave up two runs and five hits over six innings, winning his second consecutive start. Christian Yelich and Jesus Aguilar each hit home runs for the Brewers, who lost for just the fifth time in 13 games.

Bellinger snapped an 0-for-

13 slide when he lifted a 0-1 pitch from Brewers starter Jhoulys Chacin (10-4) off the right-field foul pole for his 18th of the season. It was his second grand slam this season and third of his two-year career.

Chacin (10-4) gave up nine runs and five hits with four walks over 4 1/3 innings.

PADRES 6, CUBS 1

CHICAGO (AP) — Austin Hedges hit a go-ahead, three-run homer, Robbie Erlin pitched two-hit ball over five innings in a spot start, and San Diego beat Chicago.

The Padres ended a season-high, seven-game losing streak.

Hedges homered off Jesse Chavez (3-2) in the sixth inning for a 3-1 lead, his third homer in six games and seventh overall. Hedges and Manuel Margot each had three of the Padres' 15 hits, and Margot, Eric Hosmer and A.J. Ellis drove in runs.

Erlin (2-3) allowed one run, struck out four and walked one in his third start this season and first since May 21. Four relievers followed in a three-hitter for the Padres.

NATIONALS 10, REDS 4

WASHINGTON (AP) — Max Scherzer struck out 10 in six innings for his fifth win in as many starts, helping the Washington beat Cincinnati.

Scherzer (15-5) also singled in a run off Tyler Mahle (7-9) during a six-run second inning as the Nationals won their third straight and moved two games above .500 for the first time since July 7.

Washington slugger Bryce Harper hit his 26th homer of

the season, a blast into the second deck in right-center in the eighth.

Trea Turner connected for his 14th homer in the same inning and finished with four RBIs for the third-place Nationals, who remained five games back of Philadelphia and 4½ behind Atlanta in the NL East.

Mahle failed to make it through the second inning for a second consecutive start.

PHILLIES 5, MARLINS 2

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Maikel Franco hit a three-run homer with two outs in the bottom of the ninth to lift Philadelphia past Miami.

Nick Williams drove in the tying run with a bases-loaded groundout off Kyle Barraclough (0-5) in the ninth.

Franco followed with a high drive on a 2-0 pitch into the seats in left. He flipped his bat backward between home plate and first base, jogged without a helmet and was swarmed by teammates after he circled the bases.

The Phillies remained a half-game in front of Atlanta in the NL East. The Braves beat the Mets 4-2.

Tommy Hunter (3-1) earned the win with a scoreless inning in relief. Philadelphia's Nick Pivetta gave up two runs and four hits, striking out seven in six innings.

GIANTS 8, DIAMONDBACKS 1

PHOENIX (AP) — Madison Bumgarner worked through traffic in five innings to out-pitch Zack Greinke in a duel of aces, lifting San Francisco past Arizona.

Bumgarner (4-4) pitched with runners on in every in-



St. Louis Cardinals' Jose Martinez celebrates as he runs down the first base line after hitting an RBI walk-off single to defeat the Colorado Rockies 3-2 in a baseball game Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

ning, yet limited the Diamondbacks to a run on seven hits. He stranded nine runners and struck out five.

Evan Longoria hit a solo homer off Greinke (12-6) and San Francisco broke open a close games five runs in the eighth inning. Austin Slater had two RBIs and scored three times for the Giants, who have won four straight.

Greinke gave up two runs on four hits and struck five in six innings to lose for the first time in nine starts.

Arizona's David Peralta had four hits after missing the previous two games with right shoulder tightness.

BRAVES 4, METS 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Ronald Acuna Jr. led off with his

first big league triple and reached three times, Johan Camargo hit a two-run double in a three-run third inning, and Atlanta extended its winning streak to four by beating New York.

Mike Foltynewicz (8-7) won for the first time since July 11, allowing two runs and five hits in six innings. Three pitchers followed with one-hit relief as the Braves improved to 10-3 against the Mets this year. New York dropped a season-low 18 games under .500 at 44-62. The Mets have lost 41 of their last 60 games overall and 23 of their last 32 home games. Jason Vargas (2-7) allowed four runs and six hits in five innings. He has not pitched past the fifth in any of his 11 starts. □

NASCAR Cup rookie Bubba Wallace ready to race

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. (AP) — It's been almost a week since NASCAR Cup rookie Bubba Wallace became a headliner after a violent crash, and he'll never forget it.

"I'm still reliving it," Wallace said Friday at Watkins Glen

International. "And, it's a tough one to watch, but man we hit a ton."

The Pocono race was red-flagged with six laps left in the wake of Wallace's crash. He lost the brakes on his No. 43 Chevrolet and the car shot across

the grass and slammed into the wall. Several tense moments passed before Wallace flipped down his window net. Once out of the car, Wallace sat on the track and slumped against his car before being taken to the track medical

center. Wallace says he's healed and ready to go racing again. "It's all good," he said. Safety in NASCAR became a focus after the death of Dale Earnhardt at Daytona in 2001. That Wallace was not injured is a testament to the progress

that's been made. The collision cracked a section of the energy-absorbing SAFER barrier. "It's good to be able to come away and walk away from that and just know that I had a lot of people's support," Wallace said. □

Pearce hits 3 homers, Red Sox boost AL East lead over Yanks

By The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Steve Pearce homered three times, the second a three-run drive in an eight-run fourth inning as the Boston Red Sox rallied from an early deficit to beat the New York Yankees 15-7 on Thursday night and take a season-high 6½-game lead in the AL East.

In the opener of a four-game series that gave New York the potential to erase most of its division deficit, the Red Sox instead opened a bigger gap, taking advantage of manager Aaron Boone's decision to pull starter CC Sabathia after three innings with a 4-2 lead. Jonathan Holder (1-2) faced seven batters and did not record an out.

Mookie Betts had four hits and two walks, reaching safely all six times he came to the plate. Pearce, J.D. Martinez, Ian Kinsler and Andrew Benintendi had three hits apiece for Boston. Didi Grigorijs homered twice, Aaron Hicks hit one and Giancarlo Stanton got his 25th of the season for the Yankees, who have lost just twice in the past week but dropped two games in the division.

Brian Johnson (2-3), making a spot start because AL ERA and strikeout leader Chris Sale went on the dis-



Boston Red Sox's Steve Pearce, right watches his three-run home run in front of New York Yankees' Austin Romine during the fourth inning of a baseball game in Boston, Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018.

Associated Press

abled list, fanned a career-high 11 for his first victory since April 2.

RANGERS 17, ORIOLES 8 ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Jurickson Profar hit a three-run home run and a run-scoring single as Texas scored 10 runs during the first two innings, Rougned Odor homered and walked a career-high five times, and the Rangers routed Baltimore.

Yovani Gallardo (6-1) won his third straight start but lasted only 5 1/3 innings despite having a 13-1 lead through four. Gallardo, a

former Oriole, allowed five runs on nine hits, including home runs by Mark Trumbo and Caleb Joseph, plus two walks on a season-high 104 pitches.

The Rangers have won five of their last six games for their best stretch since winning seven straight from June 16-23.

The 17 runs and 18 hits were season highs for Texas, while the Orioles allowed their most runs this year.

Andrew Cashner (3-10) retired only five batters, allowing eight runs on seven hits. He struck out one,

walked one and had a wild pitch.

WHITE SOX 6, ROYALS 4

CHICAGO (AP) — Jose Abreu hit a tying home run off Jason Adam in the eighth and pinch-hitter Daniel Palka had a three-run homer off Jason Hamel later in the inning, giving Chicago the win over Kansas City.

In a matchup of teams on track to both lose 100 or more games, the White Sox avoided getting swept in the three-game series.

Kansas City overcame a 2-0 deficit when pinch-

hitter Whit Merrifield hit a three-run homer in the eighth off Xavier Cedenro (1-0), but Abreu homered with one out in the bottom half against Adam (0-3). Abreu's 141st big league homer moved him ahead of Ron Kittle into sole possession of 10th on the White Sox career list.

Avisail Garcia doubled, Omar Narvaez was intentionally walked and Hamel relieved. Palka drove a hanging slider a half-dozen rows in the right-center field bleachers.

BLUE JAYS 7, MARINERS 3

SEATTLE (AP) — Kendrys Morales homered in the seventh inning to back Mike Hauschild's impressive Blue Jays debut as Toronto beat Seattle. With two outs in the seventh, a runner on first base and the score tied 2-2, Morales hit a fastball from Juan Nicasio (1-6) over the wall in right-center field. It was Morales' 13th home run of the season. Hauschild (1-0), signed by Toronto after being released by Houston, was pitching in his first game in the majors since April 19, 2017. He entered the game in the second inning after Nelson Cruz's two-run homer off reliever-turned-spot-starter Tyler Clippard gave the Mariners a quick 2-0 lead in the first. □



Las Vegas Aces guard Kayla McBride shoots around Phoenix Mercury forward DeWanna Bonner during the second half of a WNBA basketball game Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

ACE MYSTICS

Continued from Page 17

The team took a bus back to Connecticut and then made it to New York for a game, showing up 52 minutes before tip. They won that game.

Fans already in the arena Friday night were given an autograph session with the Mystics players. All fans who had a ticket to the game will receive a complimentary ticket to a future Mystics game.

"It was Breast Cancer Awareness night and we were supposed to have 5-6,000 fans here," Thibault said.

The Mystics fly to Dallas on Saturday morning for a game against the Wings on Sunday afternoon. Moving the game to Saturday wasn't really an option. The Aces were beginning a three-game road trip in D.C. with their next game Sunday in Connecticut.

Las Vegas never came to the D.C. arena after spending over a day traveling that left the players unhappy.

"No shoot around. No night of sleep. No beds. No food. Right now we will land in DC at 245pm that has us going straight to the gym bc of traffic and bags...and

you want us to play?" All-Star guard Kayla McBride tweeted. "Oh ok."

WNBA teams aren't allowed to fly charter because of the cost and the competitive advantage it could give some teams willing to spend the money.

"We can't control the weather, but league can control whether or not player health will be put at risk tomorrow," center Carolyn Swords tweeted. "Delays, cancelations & now taking a red-eye to get to DC@1pm. Aces will have been traveling for 24 hrs by the time we land. It takes less time to get to Sydney, AUS."

The Aces currently sit in ninth place in the standings, 1 1/2 games behind Dallas for the final playoff

spot.

Las Vegas wasn't the only WNBA team with travel issues Friday. The Indiana Fever were supposed to fly to New York for their game against the Liberty on Saturday. The Fever sat at the airport for three hours before being told their flight was canceled because of weather. There were thunderstorms in New York on Friday afternoon.

The Fever, who had a travel party of 20 people, were planning on flying to New York on Saturday morning to play a game that tips at 3 p.m.

Indiana had a game postponed in 2015 when it couldn't get a flight to Connecticut from Washington after playing the Mystics the night before. □

Drug tests for gamers as soccer's eWorld Cup jackpot climbs

By **ROB HARRIS**

AP Global Soccer Writer

LONDON (AP) — The players finished their soccer matches and huddled waiting to discover who would have to undergo doping tests. The random draw completed, two men went off to provide urine samples.

They just had to put their controllers down first.

Less than three weeks after the World Cup finished, the finals of the video gaming version are being staged by FIFA in London with competitors being tested for performance-enhancing substances for the first time, just like players on the field in Russia.

"It's great as you think you are a superstar," Saudi Arabian player Mosaad Aldossary, who competes as "Ms-dossary," said after being tested. "They usually do it for Cristiano Ronaldo and every top player. So you think you are one of them." Just like Ronaldo, there is no circumventing having to urinate in front of the tester to provide the sample — however long it takes.

"It felt awkward that someone is directly looking at you," Michael Bittner said at

the O2 Arena after becoming the first player to be drug-tested after soccer's console offshoot.

The German, who competes as "MegaBit," understands why the inconvenience is necessary to ensure people can trust a game still justifying its right to be classified as a sport.

"With the Tour de France, there was such a huge scandal and even after 10 years there is still a (view) like, 'Oh they all do doping,'" Bittner said. "This understanding for the people doesn't go out."

FIFA has been slow to enforce integrity measures to safeguard its 14-year-old esports competition, which is run in conjunction with EA Sports.

The governing body last year was untroubled by the prospect of players cheating on the computer controllers. But now with the champion on Saturday earning \$250,000 — up from \$26,000 two years ago — FIFA is finally making its players sign up to the code of ethics, which includes sanctions for match-fixing and doping.

"In the FIFA scene, there are so many haters who



In this photo taken on Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018, competitors take part in the eWorld Cup grand final in London.

Associated Press

just can't believe there are people playing better FIFA," Bittner said. "But you sometimes may have to prove to them it's all clean and you're just better on them." Adam Barton, a Welsh player known as "dreamR," said he previously heard "suspicions" rivals have been taking substances.

"It's certainly possible it has happened in the past and hopefully they can stamp it out and make it a fair competition for everybody," Barton said. "There's drugs that improve concentration which is really important."

Particularly Adderall, a stim-

ulant prescribed to treat ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) that could help maintain focus on the screen for hours playing on the Xbox or PlayStation. A medical exemption certificate would be required by FIFA to keep using such medication.

"If you don't have ADHD and you use it," said American player Alexander Betancourt, "it's very easy to get an advantage."

Concerns about brain doping ensure FIFA is checking for the use of stimulants like methamphetamines, rather than growth hormones or EPO that would boost

endurance in the traditional versions of soccer.

It was a learning experience for FIFA anti-doping officer Jens Kleinfeld, whose recent focus was the World Cup in Russia.

"I'm not normally the generation who is following esports," Kleinfeld said. "When they asked me, I was like 'Really?' But when you see how big the sport really is and how professional now the players are, there is no question we have to do doping tests."

For now the only testing is at the grand final, the three-day event that concludes Saturday.

The 32 finalists were whittled down through qualifying rounds that started with 20 million entrants in the EA-organized competitions, mainly playing at home rather than organized events. And unlike in regular sports governed by the World Anti-Doping Agency, there is no out-of-competition testing.

"That's something they should also do," said the 19-year-old Bittner, who qualified for the final as the top-ranked player on Xbox at the playoffs in Amsterdam. □

Conor is back: UFC says McGregor will fight Oct. 6 in Vegas

By **GREG BEACHAM**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Conor McGregor will return to mixed martial arts on Oct. 6 in Las Vegas for a title bout against UFC lightweight champion Khabib Nurmagomedov.

The UFC dramatically announced the matchup Friday with a promotional video to close a news conference promoting its slate of fight cards for the rest of 2018.

"The fight is done," UFC President Dana White said. McGregor (21-3) won the featherweight and lightweight championships during his meteoric MMA career, but he hasn't fought in the UFC since taking the 155-pound lightweight belt

from Eddie Alvarez in November 2016. The loquacious Irishman hasn't competed at all since losing his lucrative boxing match against Floyd Mayweather in August 2017, and his lightweight title was stripped and subsequently claimed by Nurmagomedov in April.

McGregor and Nurmagomedov will meet in the main event of the UFC 229 pay-per-view show at T-Mobile Arena, the same spot where Mayweather stopped McGregor in the 10th round of their one-sided prizefight.

McGregor also has resolved his legal troubles after throwing a hand truck at a bus containing UFC

fighters last April in Brooklyn. Nurmagomedov was the intended target of McGregor's wrath after a previous spat between the fighters' camps.

Nurmagomedov (26-0), who wasn't on the bus, won the vacant lightweight belt by beating Al Iaquinta in Brooklyn two days after McGregor's bus attack, which injured uninvolved fighters Michael Chiesa and Ray Borg. McGregor eventually was sentenced to perform five days of community service, avoiding jail time.

Nurmagomedov, the Dagestani-born Russian champion, has been one of the pound-for-pound greats of MMA when



In this July 26, 2018, file photo, mixed martial arts fighters Conor McGregor leaves the courthouse following a hearing in New York.

Associated Press

healthy, racking up 10 consecutive victories since joining the UFC.

McGregor and Nurmagomedov weren't at the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Los Angeles along with the other headlining fighters of the autumn cards, but the announce-

ment of their bout set off wild cheering among the fans.

Nurmagomedov is a formidable challenger for McGregor in a return from a 23-month break in MMA competition, but McGregor has never backed down from a challenge. □

Facebook finds 'sophisticated' efforts to disrupt elections

By BARBARA ORTUTAY and
MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook elevated concerns about election interference Tuesday, announcing that it had uncovered "sophisticated" efforts, possibly linked to Russia, to manipulate U.S. politics and by extension the upcoming mid-term elections.

The company was careful to hedge its announcement; it didn't link the effort directly to Russia or to the midterms, now less than a hundred days away. And its findings were limited to 32 apparently fake accounts on Facebook and Instagram, which the company removed because they were involved in "coordinated" and "inauthentic" political behavior.

But official Washington connected those dots anyway, not least because the reported activity so closely mirrored Russian influence campaigns during the 2016 presidential election. Nearly 300,000 people followed at least one of the newly banned accounts and thousands expressed interest in events they promoted.

"This is an absolute attack on our democracy," said Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, which Facebook had briefed in advance.



In this April 10, 2018 file photo, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg arrives to testify before a joint hearing of the Commerce and Judiciary Committees on Capitol Hill in Washington about the use of Facebook data to target American voters in the 2016 election.

Warner expressed "pretty high confidence" that Russia was behind the assault. A spokesman for Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley said Facebook had informed his office that "that a limited group of Russian actors has attempted to spread disinformation using its platform and that the affected groups are affiliated with the political left." The identified accounts sought to "promote divisions and set Americans against one another," wrote Ben Nimmo and Graham Brookie of the Atlantic Council's Digital Foren-

sic Research Lab in a blog post Tuesday. The nonprofit is working with Facebook to find and analyze abuse on its service.

The perpetrators, Facebook noted, have been "more careful to cover their tracks" than in 2016, in part because of steps Facebook has taken to prevent abuse over the past year. For example, they used virtual private networks and internet phone services to mask their locations, and paid third parties to run ads on their behalf.

After it became clear that Russia-linked actors used

social media to try to influence the 2016 U.S. election, Facebook has escalated countermeasures intended to prevent a repeat. It has cracked down on fake accounts and tried to slow the spread of fake news and misinformation through outside fact-checkers. The company has also announced new guidelines around political advertisements, requiring disclosure of who paid for them and keeping a database. Facebook has ramped up spending on these and other measures, so much so that it finally spooked inves-

tors with a forecast of lower profitability last Wednesday. Facebook's shares promptly dropped almost 20 percent and haven't recovered.

While the company would not say who is behind the efforts, Facebook said it uncovered links between the accounts it just deleted and those created by Russia's Internet Research Agency in the 2016 influence effort.

For example, the Atlantic Council's researchers noted "language patterns that indicate non-native English and consistent mistranslation, as well as an overwhelming focus on polarizing issues." The accounts seemed focused on building up an online audience and moving it to offline events, such as protests.

The earliest page was created in March 2017. Facebook says more than 290,000 accounts followed at least one of the fake pages. The most followed Facebook pages had names such as "Aztlán Warriors," "Black Elevation," "Mindful Being," and "Resisters."

Facebook didn't provide detailed descriptions of those pages. But their names parallel those of 2016 groups established by Russian agents to manipulate Americans with particular ethnic, cultural or political identities. □



In this June 15, 2017, file photo, bagged purchases from the Kroger grocery store in Flowood, Miss., sit inside this shopping cart.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Kroger is introducing online delivery as customer convenience becomes an increasingly

crucial element to gain loyalty in a hyper-competitive atmosphere. Online grocery shopping is

Kroger brings it home, introduces online delivery

still a tiny part of the market, but supermarket operators are betting that more people will want to buy their milk and bread from their smartphone or computer, especially after Amazon bought Whole Foods a year ago. The online retailer rolled out 2-hour delivery for its Prime members in some cities, lowered prices on select groceries and launched special discounts.

Others are trying to catch up with Amazon and they're threatening gro-

cery delivery company Shipt last year to boost its same-day delivery capabilities. And Walmart, like Kroger, has expanded their curbside pickup service, which lets shoppers buy their groceries online and pick up at the store.

Kroger Ship launched Wednesday in Cincinnati, its hometown, as well as Houston; Louisville, Kentucky; and Nashville, Tennessee. It will expand to other markets over the next few months. Kroger is the biggest grocery chain in the country with 2,800

stores under a number of names.

Delivery is free for any order with a tab exceeding \$35. Smaller deliveries are \$4.99 per order.

Kroger Co. is toying with other technologies in hopes of gaining an edge. It revealed in June that it was testing grocery deliveries with driverless cars. And it recently upped its investment in British online grocer Ocado, giving it access to its online ordering, automated fulfillment and home delivery technology in the U.S. □

Paid sick leave may be incentive, complication at businesses

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Rod Holmes opted for simplicity when Chicago's paid sick leave law took effect.

He wanted to avoid the headache of calculating how much sick time staffers at his digital marketing company earned for the time they worked, and there was the question of what do about his employees in Cincinnati.

Holmes had previously given his staffers three weeks of paid time off, to be used for whatever they wanted. But with the law requiring sick leave, he added a week of sick time for all 14 staffers. It increases his costs, but he wants to retain employees and attract new ones.

"We're in a fairly competitive market for people, and that was the deciding factor," says Holmes, co-owner of Chicago Style SEO.

Running a small business can be more expensive and complex for owners subject to the growing number of state and local laws that mandate paid sick time. Owners with far-flung staffers like Holmes must decide how much sick leave to give all their workers. They also have the administrative costs of



In this Monday, July 30, 2018, photo, Rod Holmes works at his business Chicago Style SEO in Chicago.

complying with the laws. And, if they have staffers who do shift work, they often must pay substitutes when someone is sick.

Despite those complications, the trend in the U.S. is toward more companies offering paid sick leave, either because of the laws in 10 states and many big cities or because employers recognize it's a benefit staffers want. The Labor Department estimated last year that 68 percent of

workers at U.S. companies had paid sick leave, up from 61 percent in 2015.

The issue of paid sick leave has been raised in Congress, although a federal law doesn't appear likely in the near future. At a Senate hearing in July, lawmakers split along party lines over how to pay for the time off. Democrats favor a law that would be funded through tax increases on employers and workers. Republicans want workers to effectively

pay for sick leave by delaying eligibility for Social Security based on how much sick time they've taken.

Separately, a GOP-sponsored bill in the House would allow companies to be exempt from state and local sick leave laws if they offer staffers flexible scheduling.

Most of the state and local laws, which allow workers to accrue sick leave based on the number of hours they work, are in tradition-

ally Democratic areas. The states are Arizona, California, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington. Cities with laws include Chicago, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

While paid sick leave is becoming more prevalent, some owners balk at the laws, says Tim Garrett, an employment attorney with Bass Berry Sims in Nashville, Tennessee.

"They don't appreciate the government telling them what to do," Garrett says. "They say, 'I want to do this because it's what's best for my business.'"

It can be complicated to comply with the laws, which can affect companies located outside a state's or city's borders. Some require sick leave to be granted to workers who are temporarily within a jurisdiction, including employees on business trips or truck drivers making deliveries.

Dan Turner steers clear of places with laws more complex than what's required in Washington, D.C., where his information technology firm, TCG, is located. □

Associated Press

Earnings roundup: 2Q profit growth even better than expected

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors came into this earnings season with high expectations. They weren't high enough.

Companies in the S&P 500 are on track to deliver earnings-per-share growth of 24 percent for the second quarter. When the quarter started in April, Wall Street was expecting a 19 percent jump, according to FactSet. So far, about three quarters of the companies in the index have reported. If the current pace holds, it would mark the second straight quarter that growth has been close to 25 percent.

The big profit gains are an encouraging sign to investors because stock prices tend to track with profits over the long term. Investors are also optimistic because the gains aren't solely the result of lower taxes. Revenue has been stronger than expected for most companies, which means that bottom-line growth isn't coming from just cost-cutting or from the Trump administration's reduction to the corporate tax rate. Apple, for example, sold more iPhones and iPads than a year earlier, and at higher average selling prices.

As impressive as the re-

sults have been, though, concerns still hover. For instance, Facebook warned its revenue growth will slow in upcoming quarters, and the stock lost a record \$119 billion in value in one day. It's part of a larger concern that this may be as good as it gets when it comes to profit gains. Analysts expect profit growth to slow in 2019, when companies won't see the same big declines in tax rates that they did this year.

Plus, companies are girding for the potential pain that a global trade war could wreak. Seventy companies in the S&P 500 mentioned the word "tariffs" in their



This June 25, 2018 file photo shows the New York Stock Exchange in New York.

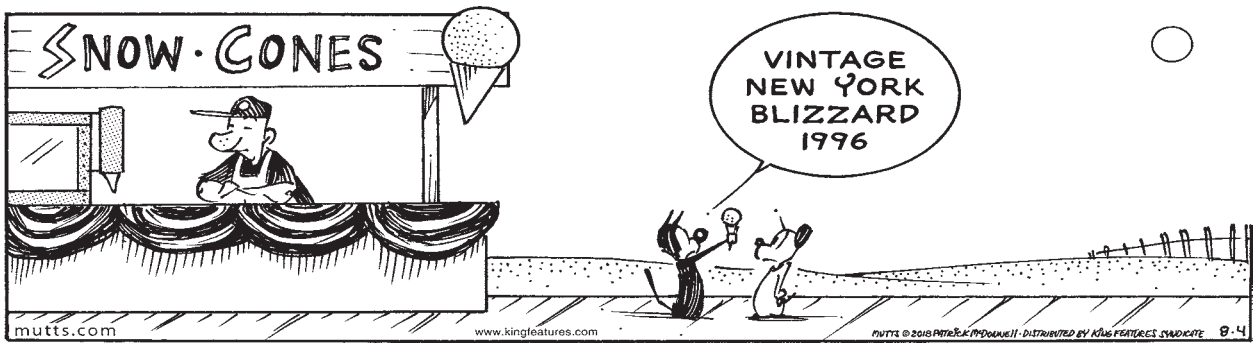
Associated Press

conference calls following their earnings reports, as of July 25. A year earlier, before the trade-war worries first flared, just five companies did so.

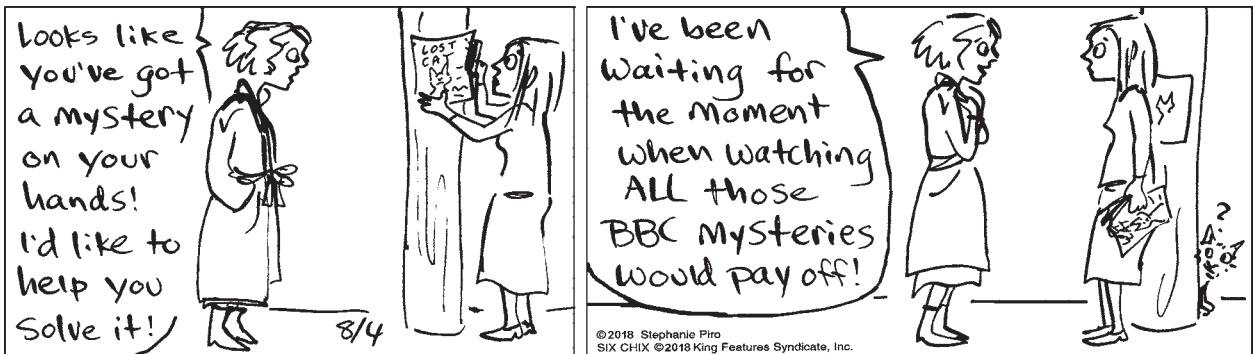
If this does end up being a peak for earnings growth,

slower times could be ahead for stocks. The S&P 500 tends to be weak in the six months following a peak in earnings growth, say strategists at RBC Capital Markets. □

Mutts



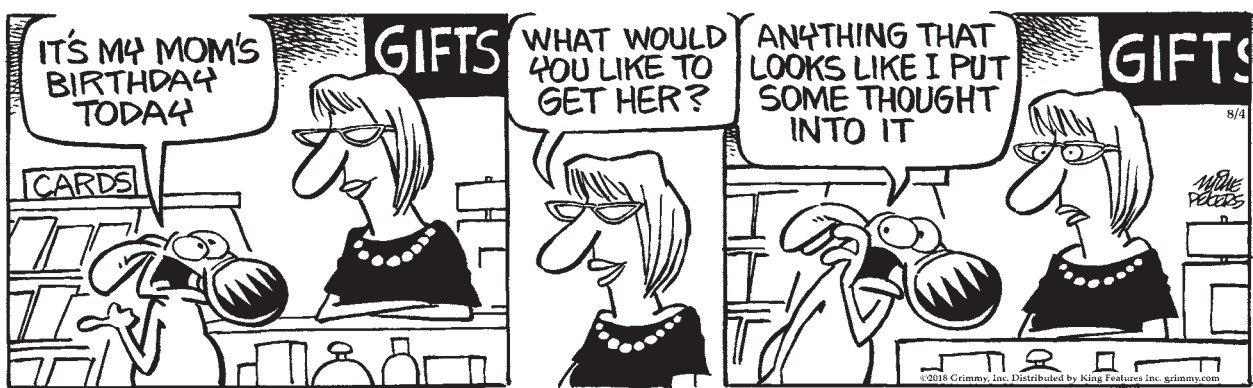
6 Chix



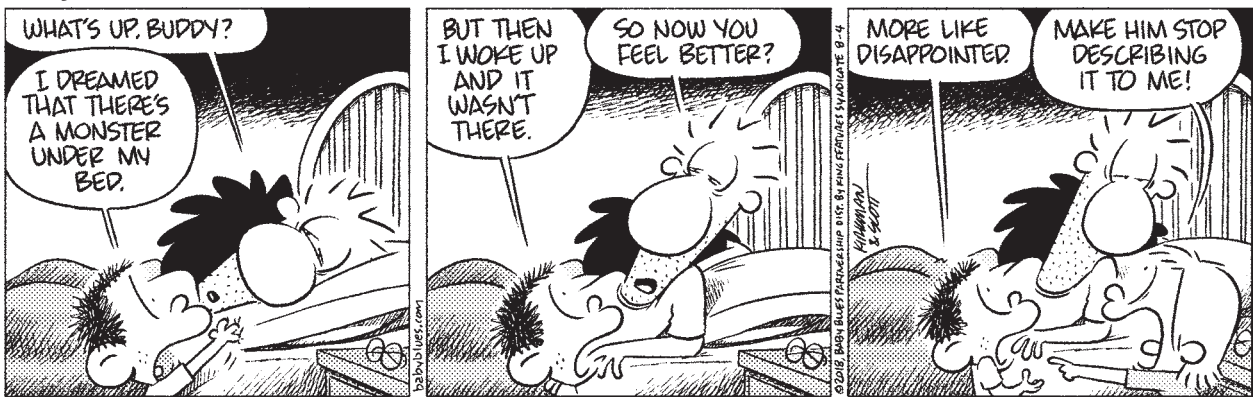
Blondie



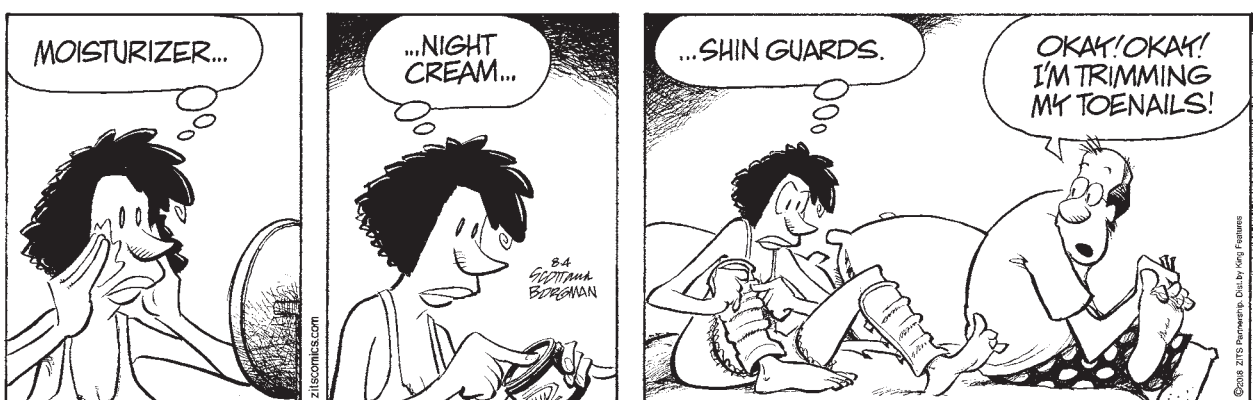
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			8		9			
		8	5		7	4		
	7						2	
8	2						6	3
				7				
5	1						4	8
	4						3	
		2	1		5	9		
			9		2			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

8/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	1	2	7	8	9	5	3	6
5	8	9	6	3	2	7	1	4
3	6	7	5	1	4	8	2	9
9	2	3	4	5	7	6	8	1
1	7	5	9	6	8	3	4	2
6	4	8	1	2	3	9	5	7
2	3	1	8	9	6	4	7	5
8	9	4	2	7	5	1	6	3
7	5	6	3	4	1	2	9	8

ACROSS

- 1 "Swing __, Sweet Chariot"
4 Paper bags
9 Nervous
13 Rowers' needs
15 TV's "Kate & __"
16 Zero
17 You, to Shakespeare
18 Alaska or Alabama
19 Strong __ ox
20 Cheeky; brazen
22 New York team
23 Raise, as children
24 Actor Marvin
26 Snobbish
29 Frying pans
34 __ in; brings under control
35 Small bad
36 Trumpeter Severinsen
37 Sudden loud noise
38 Go back and forth
39 Gyro bread
40 Highest card
41 Hot dog
42 __ point; center of attention
43 Very young bird
45 Palace
46 Actor Brynner
47 Autos
48 Sign of an old surgery
51 Obnoxious
56 Family member
57 Lasso's end
58 __ up; absorb
60 Not locked
61 Shoelace woes
62 Business transaction
63 Exam
64 Singer Paul & his family
65 Egg producer

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13			14		15					16			
17					18					19			
	20			21						22			
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26	27	28				29	30			31	32	33	
34					35					36			
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48	49	50				51	52	53			54	55	
56						57				58		59	
60						61				62			
63						64				65			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/4/18

3 Songbird

- 4 Strut about showily
5 Church table
6 __ up; say no more
7 Windy day toy
8 Young tree
9 Tooth coating
10 Prescribed amount
11 Small fly
12 Strong desires
14 Burning
21 __ out; begins a trip
25 Antlered animal
26 Not rural
27 Harmony
28 Forest trees
29 Beekeeper's danger
30 Hose problem
31 Royal decree
32 General Mills cold cereal
33 Weight revealer
35 Waterbird
38 Asian nation
39 Own

Friday's Puzzle Solved

P	T	A		D	A	D	D		S	O	B	S
P	O	O		A	D	O	R		P	A	R	T
A	R	M		N	O	V	A	S	C	O	T	I
D	E	F		S	C	R	E	W		L	O	S
				O	F	T	E	N		G	E	L
P	O	O		L	E	D			P	E	R	S
A	G	L	O		S	L	E	E	K		P	E
T	R	E	E		S	T	E	A	K		T	E
H	E	R		S	L	A	T	S		B	U	R
				S	Y	D	N	E		G	R	E
				R	A	W				T	O	A
S	T	R	I	P		D	R	E	A	D		I
T	R	A	N	S	C	R	I	P	T		M	O
O	I	N	K		B	E	L	I	E		A	N
P	O	T	S		S	W	E	D	E		E	S

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8/4/18

- 41 Respiratory bug
42 Actor Jamie
44 Despot
45 Hug
47 __ Rica
48 Catch sight of
49 __ of Good Hope
50 Chimps & others
52 West German city
53 __, line and sinker
54 Ark builder
55 "A __ of Two Cities"
59 Man's nickname



In this photo taken July 28, 2018, a cat seeking refuge from a raging Northern California wildfire found a fine-feathered friend as it awaited rescue from the heat in Redding, Calif.

Associated Press

Feline and hen become fast fire friends

Associated Press

REDDING, Calif. (AP) — A cat seeking refuge from a raging Northern California wildfire found a fine-feathered friend as it awaited rescue from the heat and flames.

The Grass Valley Fire Department said Thursday a cat and chicken it rescued over the weekend are recovering from burns with the help of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The feline and hen were found Saturday

huddling together on the front porch of a home in Redding during a firefighters' patrol through a fire-damaged neighborhood.

The unlikely duo made it to safety riding in the same crate. The animals are expected to fully recover from their burn wounds while in the custody of SPCA.

The fire in and around Redding has claimed six lives, including two firefighters, and destroyed more than 1,000 homes. □

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Birds learn another 'language' by eavesdropping on neighbors

By CHRISTINA LARSON

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — For birds, understanding neighborhood gossip about an approaching hawk or brown snake can mean the difference between life or death.

Wild critters are known to listen to each other for clues about lurking predators, effectively eavesdropping on other species' chatter. Birds, for example, can learn to flee when neighbors cluck "hawk!" — or, more precisely, emit a distress call.

The fairy wren, a small Australian songbird, is not born knowing the "languages" of other birds. But it can master the meaning of a few key "words," as scientists explain in a paper published Thursday in the journal *Current Biology*.

"We knew before that some animals can translate the meanings of other species' 'foreign languages,' but we did not know how that 'language learning' came about," said Andrew Radford, a biologist at the University of Bristol and co-author of the study.



This photo provided by Jessica McLachlan shows a fairy-wren. Scientists have discovered that birds can learn to recognize alarm calls of other species, essentially by learning to eavesdrop in a second language.

Associated Press

Birds have several ways of acquiring life skills. Some knowledge is innate, and some is acquired from direct experience. Radford and other scientists are exploring a third kind of knowledge: acquiring information from peers.

Radford and colleagues at Australia National University wandered around the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra with customized "tweeter speakers" affixed to their waists, looking for solitary

fairy wrens. They wanted to be certain that the birds would react only to sounds, not other birds' behavior.

The scientists first played the birds two unfamiliar recorded sounds. One was the alarm cry of an allopatric chestnut-rumped thornbill, a bird not native to Australia. The other was a computer-generated bird sound dubbed "buzz."

On first hearing these sounds, the 16 fairy wrens had no particular reaction. The scientists then trotted

around the park and continued to play customized recordings. They attempted to train half the birds to recognize the thornbill's alarm cry as a warning sound, and the other half to recognize the computer-generated "buzz" as a distress call. They did that by playing the previously unfamiliar sounds in conjunction with noises that the birds already associated with danger, such as fairy wrens' own distress cry.

After three days, the scientists tested what the birds had learned — and their feathered pupils passed the test.

The two sets of fairy wrens responded to the sound they had been trained on by fleeing for cover, but remained indifferent to the other sound.

Twelve of the 16 birds fled at every playback; the other four birds fled in response to two-thirds or more of the playbacks.

To put it in human terms, it's as though a person who only speaks English had learned that "Achtung" means "attention" or

"danger" in German simply by listening to people yell phrases with similar meanings in multiple languages at once.

"Until this study, we had limited knowledge about how an animal learns what calls from other species actually mean," said Christopher Templeton, a biologist at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon, who was not involved in the study.

Previous research had shown that fairy wrens can learn the meaning of distress calls when actually encountering a predator.

"What this new study does is remove the predator entirely. It shows that these birds can learn to associate new sounds with danger, without having to learn through trial and error," said Templeton.

In other words, one bird's distress tweet can go viral.

"If you can only learn in the presence of a predator, that's quite dangerous," said Radford, the study co-author. "The capacity to learn by associating sounds with meaning makes sense, biologically." □



This May 3, 2018 photo provided by Benjamin Bond-Lamberty shows technician Stephanie Pennington measuring the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air from the soil at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center near Edgewater, Md. Associated Press

Warmer soil releasing more carbon, worsening climate change

By SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even the dirt on the ground is making climate change worse, a new study finds.

Plants capture massive amounts of carbon, pumping it into the soil where usually it stays for hundreds or thousands of years.

Observations from across the globe show that as temperatures have warmed, bacteria and fungi in the soil are becoming more active. These turbo-charged microbes are

feeding on dead leaves and plants, releasing more heat-trapping carbon dioxide into the air, according to a study in Wednesday's journal *Nature*.

Scientists call it a vicious cycle of warming. Burning of coal, oil and natural gas heats the air and soil, which worsens warming.

This uncontrolled cycle speeds up and amplifies climate change, said Jerry Melillo of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Massachusetts, who wasn't part of the study.

Researchers found a significant increase in the amount of carbon since the 1990s coming out of microbes when compared to other releases of carbon. They analyzed sensor readings, soil measurements, plant growth data and satellite observations in what's the most comprehensive study yet of the climate change impacts of soil.

"The world really is showing an effect here," said lead researcher Ben Bond-Lamberty of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

"It's a fingerprint of climate change." Overall, soil releases about nine times more carbon than human-caused activities, but that's part of a natural cycle when the amount of carbon released into the air is about equal to the carbon taken out by oceans and plants. Fossil fuel emissions knock the atmosphere out of balance by putting more in than comes out. Heated soil releases more carbon, further putting the cycle out of whack, Bond-Lamberty said.

Scientists said as the world continues to warm, the soil will release yet more carbon that it has been holding.

If something isn't done, "we are really in trouble," said Rattan Lal of Ohio State University, who wasn't part of the study. □

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Fox passes decisions on Apu character to 'Simpsons' team

BY LYNN ELBER

BETH HARRIS

Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)

— A roundup of news Thursday from the Television Critics Association summer meeting, at which TV networks and streaming services are presenting details on upcoming programs.

APU IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Creators of "The Simpsons" have the freedom to handle the show's depiction of Indian shop owner Apu in the right way for their show, a top Fox executive said.

Apu, the Kwik-E-Mart clerk who has sold expired food and ripped off customers in the long-running animated Fox series, has come under fire as racist and stereotypical. The criticism flared after the recent release of the documentary "The Trouble with Apu."

"We have had conversations with (executive producer) Jim Brooks and his team, and basically we've left it up to them," Fox Television Group Chairman and CEO Dana Walden told a TV critics' meeting.

"They've treated the characters with so much respect, we definitely trust them to handle it in a way that will be best for their show," Walden said. She's unaware of their plans, but "we all decided that was their decision."

"The Simpsons," now in its 30th year, made a stab at responding to critics in an episode that aired last April. Mom Marge is sharing a book she enjoyed as a child with daughter Lisa but finds herself editing its slurs against people of Irish and Latin American descent as she goes.

Lisa's response: "Something



This image released by Fox shows the character Apu, an Indian shop owner featured on "The Simpsons," animated series.

Associated Press

that started decades ago and was applauded and inoffensive is now politically incorrect. What can you do?" A photo of Apu appears, and Marge says, "Some things will be dealt with at a later date" and Lisa adds, "if at all."

Comedian Hari Kondabolu, who wrote "The Problem With Apu" documentary to address how marginalized groups are represented in pop culture, attacked the show's response as sad and misguided. He was joined by a chorus of online protests.

Walden had a measured response when asked about the episode's backlash. She called it "good information" for the creators, who she said focused on it and undoubtedly will take

it into account as they further address the character. Hank Azaria, the cast member of "The Simpsons" who voices Apu, said publicly in April he hopes the show makes a change and he's willing to step away from the role, saying it feels like the right thing to do.

"9-1-1" STARS CALL REAL 911

Angela Bassett once resorted to dialing 911 for help when she had trouble with a fireplace at home. Aisha Hinds needed help for a life-threatening emergency as a teenager.

The actresses co-star on Fox's "9-1-1" series about the pressurized world of police, firefighters and dispatchers who are thrust into a variety of high-stress situations.

Bassett told a TV critics meeting that she once called for help when a fire she and a friend started got out of hand. It wouldn't extinguish after being doused with water and she had trouble using a spatula to toss the burning log outside.

"I'm a Florida girl, so fireplaces aren't usually a thing," she said.

Much to Bassett's relief, firefighters in full gear arrived and took care of it.

"They were very handsome," she said, smiling.

Hinds got mistakenly shot in the back as a 16-year-old walking home from school in New York by a suspect chasing another man.

"It didn't even register that I had been shot," she said.

"It felt kind of like a stiletto, like a really sharp stiletto just piercing, and really, really hot."

The bullet grazed her aorta and she ended up losing a kidney. Both of the men involved ended up dying within a couple years of the incident.

"So here I am, the lone survivor of that entire experience," Hinds said. "Truly, truly I have to give credit to the very fast response of 911 in my neighborhood."

"24" MULTIPLIED?

Fox is developing two potential new series for its "24" drama franchise.

Fox executives Dana Walden and Gary Newman told a TV critics' meeting that veteran "24" producers Howard Gordon and Brian Koppelman are working on the ideas.

One is a prequel to the original series and involves "24" creators Joel Surnow and Bob Cochran, said Walden. The other series is set in the legal world and would be a new take on the franchise, she said. The action unfolds in the 24 hours before a prisoner's execution and involves high "emotional stakes," Newman said.

They didn't share further details.

Kiefer Sutherland starred in the original "24" that aired from 2001 to 2010 and in a limited 2014 version. The short-lived 2016-17 reboot "24: Legacy" featured Corey Hawkins.

THE TRUMP FACTOR

"Last Man Standing" isn't rushing to pick up the "Roseanne" pro-Trump mantle when it starts life at its new network this fall.

Tim Allen, star of the comedy that was axed by ABC and picked up by Fox, said his character is a centrist who would support Trump administration policies that help his business. But Mike Baxter probably isn't a vocal defender of President

Donald Trump, Allen told TV critics.

Series executive producer Kevin Abbott described Allen's character as a conservative Republican, but he said it's unlikely the show will address Trump one way or the other.

Allen chimed in teasingly, saying, "Oh yes, we will."

A change of network won't change the show, which will remain familiar to fans of its ABC run, Abbott said: "The show was beloved by a large audience, and we want to keep that audience and we hope expand it a little bit."

His fellow executive producer, Matt Berry, said "Last Man Standing" and "Roseanne" can't really be compared.

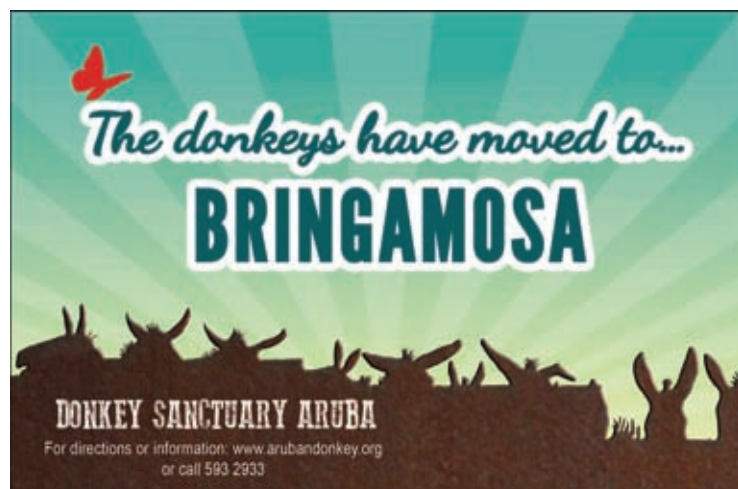
"The only similarities with the 'Roseanne' show is we're a family sitcom and the central character has a more conservative view," Berry said. But the revived "Roseanne" was an "issue-of-the-week" comedy, and "we don't do issues of the week. We consider ourselves a family show with a traditional character at the center."

Barr's series, in which the star's support for Trump was mirrored by her character, was canceled by ABC after one hit season when Barr posted a racist tweet about former Obama adviser Valerie Jarrett. Barr has both apologized for and denied knowing it would be seen as bigoted.

A spin-off, "The Conners," will air this coming season on ABC with the "Roseanne" cast minus Barr.

Abbott and Allen said they were surprised by ABC's abrupt 2017 decision to cancel "Last Man Standing" after six seasons, which Allen said was "very poorly handled."

Allen said at the time that his personal politics — he attended Trump's inauguration — might have played a role, and on Thursday he said if there was a political motivation the network certainly wouldn't admit it. But he added that it was a "financial decision on ABC's part." □



McKinnon channels her inner spy in uneven 'Spy'

By JOCELYN NOVECK
 Associated Press

From the get-go, "The Spy Who Dumped Me," a Kate McKinnon-Mila Kunis buddy spy comedy, has two things going for it.

First, female spies are clearly in vogue, if you've been reading the news — or if you prefer your spies to be fictional, may we recommend Keri Russell's recently departed Elizabeth Jennings on "The Americans"? More importantly, the film has McKinnon, whose comedic brilliance on "Saturday Night Live" has yet to find the perfect big-screen vehicle. It will, one day, but this movie isn't it. Still, her presence gives the film — an often entertaining but chaotically uneven experience — its energy and spark.

The main problem with "The Spy Who Dumped Me" is its strange dissonance of tone. There's nothing wrong with trying to be a hard-knuckle action film and a goofy comedy all at once. But here, that effort results in moments of occasionally stunning violence that simply don't mesh with the



This image released by Lionsgate shows Kate McKinnon, right, and Mila Kunis in a scene from "The Spy Who Dumped Me."

Associated Press

light-hearted vibe the filmmakers seek elsewhere. Talented director Susanna Fogel (who co-wrote the script with David Iseron) clearly feels that a female action comedy doesn't need to be short on the action, and that's totally true. But gender issues aside, there's action and there's serious violence. When an appealingly kooky char-

acter gets shot in the head during a hilarious car chase, it suddenly doesn't feel so hilarious. Likewise when someone drowns in a pot of fondue, or gets impaled on a blade. Granted, such a balance is always tough to strike. We begin with Justin Theroux as Drew, the spy in the title, tangling with a bunch of bad guys in Lithuania, racing around on a

motorcycle, leaping out of a building, that sort of thing. Who's he fighting? Not clear. Cut back to the USA, where Audrey (Kunis), a sweet, self-effacing store clerk, is celebrating her 30th birthday and trying to forget that jerky Drew dumped her via text message. Her BFF Morgan (McKinnon), who is NOT self-effacing, convinces her to burn the stuff he left

at her house.

That threat gets Drew's attention: He shows up, looking for the stuff, and soon is apparently shot dead in front of Audrey. She's just conveniently learned he's CIA — Audrey thought he worked at NPR, which is funny because he really doesn't have that sensitive NPR vibe. Anyway, Audrey learns this news from a pair of agents who abduct her, briefly. One of them, Duffer, is an insufferable Harvard alum (Hasan Minhaj of "The Daily Show") who's incapable of uttering a sentence without the word "Harvard" in it. (You know the type.) The other, Sebastian (Sam Heughan), is a hunky but soulful Brit whose allegiance is murky, but might as well be wearing a T-shirt saying "Love Interest." So, how do Audrey and Morgan — whose last name is Freeman, by the way — become a dynamic duo of globe-trotting, butt-kicking spies? Well, turns out everyone's after a cheap fantasy football trophy, inside of which is a very, very important USB drive. □

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SPY WHO DUMPED ME
 WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R]
 MON-THU 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20
 FRI 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20 | 11:50
 SAT 1:55 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20 | 11:50
 SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20

EWAN MCGREGOR | HAYLEY ATWELL
Christopher Robin
 WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]
 MON-THU 4:25 | 6:45 | 9:05
 FRI 4:25 | 6:45 | 9:05 | 11:25
 SAT 2:05 | 4:25 | 6:45 | 9:05 | 11:25
 SUN & HOL 2:05 | 4:25 | 6:45 | 9:05

TOM CRUISE | HENRY CAVILL
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - FALL OUT
 WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
 MON-FRI 6:00 | 9:05
 SAT-SUN 2:55 | 6:00 | 9:05
 MON-THU 4:45 | 7:50
 FRI 4:45 | 7:50 | 10:55
 SAT 1:40 | 4:45 | 7:50 | 10:55
 SUN & HOL 1:40 | 4:45 | 7:50

NICOLAS CAGE | KRISTEN BELL
GO! MOVIES
 WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]
 MON-FRI 5:15 | 7:15
 SAT-SUN 3:15 | 5:15 | 7:15

DWAYNE JOHNSON | NEVE CAMPBELL
SKYSCRAPER
 WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
 MON-THU 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:25
 FRI 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:25 | 11:40
 SAT 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:25 | 11:40
 SUN & HOL 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:25

AMANDA SEYFRIED | LIVY JAMES
MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN
 WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
 MON-THU & SUN 9:00
 FRI-SAT 9:00 | 11:30

ADAM SANDLER | SELENA GOMEZ
HOTEL TRANSILVANIA
 WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]
 MON-FRI 4:40 | 6:50
 SAT & SUN 2:30 | 4:40 | 6:50

DENZEL WASHINGTON | PEDRO PASCAL
THE EQUALIZER
 WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R]
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Lowe, Timberlake, Cannon involved in new TV game shows



This combination photo shows actor-singer Justin Timberlake, actor Rob Lowe and comedian-TV host Nick Cannon who are involved in three game shows debuting on Fox.

Associated Press

Associated Press
BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — And your host, Rob Lowe. The actor will preside over "Mental Samurai," a new game show on Fox to air during the upcoming season, the network announced Thursday. Contestants will be tested in such categories

as knowledge, memory, numbers and sequencing while being transported around the set at high speeds in a specially designed capsule that rotates 360 degrees. Lowe says he's loved mental competition shows ever since he won on an all-star junior version of "The \$10,000 Pyramid" in 1979.

"For me, 'Mental Samurai' is addicting," said Lowe, who will also produce the show. "Every time you play, you think: THIS time I'm gonna win! But this very simple game is almost impossible to crack." Also getting into the game-show arena is Justin Timberlake, who helped create the format and will be an executive producer for "Spin the Wheel." Contestants will have a chance to win over \$20 million in each episode of the show hosted by comedian Dax Shepard. It will air on Fox during the upcoming season. "I can't think of a better job than giving out millions of dollars to nice people," Shepard said in a news release. "It's my chance to finally be Willy Wonka." □

JFK's rocking chair, other iconic memorabilia up for grabs

By WILLIAM J. KOLE
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Some of the most iconic items associated with the late President John F. Kennedy are going on the auction block. Eldred's auction gallery in East Dennis, on Cape Cod, is taking bids Friday on a rocking chair that JFK used in the Oval Office, a tie clip in the shape of the PT-109 torpedo boat Kennedy commanded during World War II, and pens he used to establish the Peace Corps and sign a landmark nuclear arms treaty.

Other items up for grabs include a charcoal drawing of JFK done as a study for the slain president's official White House portrait; handwritten notes JFK jotted about Vietnam around 1953; and his letter opener and crystal ashtray.

There are also copies of Kennedy's 1957 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "Profiles in Courage," being auctioned — at least one autographed by the POTUS. It's a chance for JFK ad-



In this Oct. 7, 1963, file photo, President John F. Kennedy signs the Limited Test Ban Treaty during a ratification ceremony in the White House Treaty Room in Washington.

Associated Press

mirers to own some "coveted" bits of history, auction house vice president Bill Bourne told The Associated Press.

"There's only so much of this

material out there," he said. "And these are some truly iconic pieces."

The upholstered oak rocking chair, worn yet still expected to fetch between

\$50,000 and \$70,000, is particularly emblematic. JFK often was photographed sitting in it while meeting with world leaders. The former president's doctors

urged him to use rockers to ease his chronic back pain. JFK's fountain pens, which are being sold as a lot of 15 with bids expected to start around \$60,000, also were used to designate the Cape Cod National Seashore — Kennedy's old stomping grounds — in 1961. The Peace Corps was signed into existence the same year.

And one of the pens was used on the 1963 Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, an accord that helped steer the planet away from nuclear warfare a year after the Cuban Missile Crisis brought the U.S. and the Soviet Union to the brink.

Oddball auction items include JFK's prized if somewhat garish silk scarf, decorated with bronze Democrat donkeys and blue stars; the creased and stained 1961 inaugural ball invitation that JFK sent to Frank Sinatra; and Kennedy's personal stereo, including records by Jackie Gleason and other chart-topping artists of the day. □



In this Saturday, June 4, 2011 file photo, Canadian model Rick Genest, aka Zombie Boy, appears on the runway during a fashion show in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Associated Press

Lady Gaga collaborator known as Zombie Boy dead at 32

Associated Press

MONTREAL (AP) — A talent agency has confirmed the death of a Quebec model known for his head-to-toe tattoos and participation in the Lady Gaga music video "Born This Way."

Dulcedo Management confirmed on Facebook Thursday the passing of

Rick Genest, who was better known as Zombie Boy. Dulcedo said it "was in shock" and called the 32-year-old represented by the agency an "icon of the artistic scene and of the fashion world."

Lady Gaga said on her official Twitter account Thursday night that "the

suicide of friend Rick Genest, Zombie Boy is beyond devastating."

The American singer added: "We have to work harder to change the culture, bring Mental Health to the forefront and erase the stigma that we can't talk about it." □

Despite bad weather, Beyonce and Jay-Z headline fiery show

By MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Even severe weather couldn't stop Beyonce and Jay-Z from performing an explosive two-hour-plus concert for their feverish fans.

After bad weather forced concertgoers at the MetLife Stadium inside for close to an hour Thursday night, Be-

yonce and Jay-Z hit the stage at 11:08 p.m. and played into Friday morning, wrapping the energetic show at 1:29 a.m.

Beyonce thanked the audience at the end of the show in East Rutherford, New Jersey, for not "letting the rain stop the night." "Thank y'all for riding. It's like 1 something in the morning," she said.

"God bless you. We appreciate you. We love you." Fans were anxious when officials told the audience a thunderstorm was on its way and people had to head indoors. But Beyonce and Jay-Z made up for the lag, performing back-to-back hits on a large stage that included fire blasts and fireworks during their On the Run II Tour. □



In this May 4, 2015, file photo, Jay Z and Beyonce arrive at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala in New York.

Associated Press

COLLECTION

Fifty Fathoms



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